



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INCORPORATED® KICKS OFF 85TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SALUTING LOCAL LEADERS

HARTFORD, Conn. (March 22, 2016) - More than 3,000 members of America's oldest service organization for college-trained African American women will convene in Hartford, Conn., March 31 through April 3, 2016, at the Connecticut Convention Center for the 85th Annual North Atlantic Regional Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Under the leadership of Regional Director Meredith L. Henderson, the Notable North Atlantic Region, representing communities from Maine to the nation's capital, will kick off its four-day conference with a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 7 p.m. With the theme "Luminous Leaders Lighting Their Communities," the Public Meeting will highlight and salute community leaders who illuminate the International Sorority's five Program Targets: Educational Enrichment, Health Promotion, Family Strengthening, Environmental Ownership, and Global Impact.

Honorees include:

- **Dr. Myra Jones-Taylor**, State of Connecticut Commissioner for Early Childhood Education
- **Dr. Gary Desir**, Professor and Interim Chairman of the Yale University Department of Medicine
- **Charmaine Craig**, Environmental Activist and Community Leader
- **Howard K. Hill**, Entrepreneur, Business Leader, and 1st African American President of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association
- **Cheksha Kidd**, The Hartford Vice President, Group Life and Voluntary Products
- **Althea Norcott**, Global Humanitarian and Co-Founder of Freetown-New Haven Sister Cities Committee
- **Dr. Jackqueline Mclean-Markes**, Cosmetic Dentist and Dental Ambassador to the Caribbean

Each of these distinguished individuals shares a common interest with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in launching new dimensions of service that positively impact the community.

This event is free and open to the public. Members of the media are invited to attend.

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ABOUT ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is composed of more than 265,000 members in 986 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Liberia, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Alpha Kappa Alpha is often hailed as "America's premier Greek-letter organization for African American women." For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and its programs, visit www.aka1908.com.