



Contact: Melody McDowell – Chief Information Officer – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
773-660-2001 – Office 312-371-8917 – Cell e-mail: melodyaka@aol.com

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA'S RECORD OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TO BE FEATURED IN UNITED NATIONS' PUBLICATION

Chicago, Illinois – June 25, 2011 - The Nongovernmental Organization Branch of the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs has accepted for publication a narrative from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority that chronicles its mission of educational excellence. The statement will be published in an international periodical that will be translated into six languages for use by the United Nations. It will be released at the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) High Level Segment (HLS) meeting to be held July 4-7, 2011 at Le Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It will also be distributed to every member of the United Nations, which includes countries from all over the world.

The submission, which was accepted following a call for oral or written papers by NGO members with special consultative status, was solicited by the Branch's High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council from among the thousands of NGO-status members, which includes Alpha Kappa Alpha. The Sorority's contribution is one of over hundreds that will be included in the booklet.

The theme for the UN's Annual Ministerial Review segment this year is "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Education." With this as the inspiration, and with a long history of advocating for education, Alpha Kappa Alpha provided a compelling overview of the organization's educational mission, history, initiatives, vision and outcomes.

According to Alpha Kappa Alpha's international president, Attorney Carolyn House Stewart, being included in a publication of such international prominence catapults Alpha Kappa Alpha's educational achievements onto the global arena. Added Stewart, "It was on the strength of our legacy of educational stewardship that the statement was accepted for publication. We are excited that our educational triumphs and vision will be shared with the world and given global exposure and acclaim. This visibility in a publication of international stature underscores the power of Alpha Kappa Alpha's theme: 'Global Leadership Through Timeless Service.'"

Alice M. Dear who chairs Alpha Kappa Alpha's Global Initiatives/UNECOSOC/NGO Committee led the team charged with crafting the treatise. This entity represents AKA at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Economic and Social Organization events. One of its numerous responsibilities is to prepare position papers on topics that showcase current global programs.

With a passion rooted in a 103-year record of commitment to education -- and with a particular devotion to realizing the educational aspirations of women and girls -- the AKA team, wrote and submitted the winning synopsis.

In articulating the scope of AKA's commitment, the presentation compellingly describes how AKA's educational record of commitment parallels Millennium Development Goal two's objective: Achieve Universal Primary Education. In highlighting the similarities, the narrative highlights the Sorority's Emerging Young Leaders program and the Educational Advancement Foundation as prototypes that support this goal.

The Emerging Young Leaders (EYL), one of AKA's signature initiatives evolved out of the realization that today's increasing demands mandate that our youth be better leaders at a younger age and poised to make smart choices with positive consequences. Spearheaded by President Stewart members mentor to girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades by providing leadership development, civic engagement, enhanced academic preparation and character building. The program is expected to impact 10,000 girls.

The Educational Advancement Foundation, Inc. (EAF) has worked diligently to fill the void in funding for education for women and men. Since its founding in 1980, EAF has awarded over \$2.5 million in scholarships to thousands of worthy students who would have been unable to attend college and realize their educational aspirations without the agency's financial support.

In acknowledging the team's success, Dear said that the work that went into writing the winning narrative demonstrates that Alpha Kappa Alpha will not merely sit at the ECOSOC table as a NGO member but will also be a contributor.

Declared Dear, "Being published in the international book represents a unique opportunity for organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC to contribute to issues of critical concern to the global development agenda. It also provides a platform to specifically address the issue of gender equality and empowerment. This is the essence of AKA's educational heritage and why the Sorority vows to help ECOSOC achieve its goal of educational parity by 2015."

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About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it is one of the world's leading service organizations. The Sorority's members have made a commitment "to serve all mankind" through a nucleus of more than 250,000 women in over 958 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, South Korea, Japan and on the continent of Africa. Attorney Carolyn House Stewart is the 28th International President. Stewart's administration is marked by the theme: "Global Leadership Through Timeless Service." For more information, log on to www.akal908.com.

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