



July 1, 2019

Anthony H. Brown  
*Bethune-Cookman University*  
President

**TO: MEDIA OUTLETS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Laura R. Williams  
*Hampton University*  
Vice President

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Carly E. Hill  
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Recording Secretary

**CLEVELAND HBCU ALUMNI ALONG WITH FIRSTENERGY  
CELEBRATES MORE THAN 100 COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS  
WITH NEARLY \$20,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES**

Dawn Mayes  
*Florida A&M University*  
Corresponding Secretary

Cleveland, OH – On what was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon (June 30, 2019) the Cleveland Council of Black Colleges Alumni Association along with the United Negro College Fund presented the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual FirstEnergy Destination HBCU: Student Send-off at the Cleveland Metroparks, South Chagrin Reservations – Shelterhouse. More than 150 students and parents along with alumni representing the various Historically Black Colleges and Universities were in attendance.

Laquita Taylor  
*Tougaloo College*  
Financial Secretary

The send-off is designed for all Cleveland area college-bound freshmen students and upperclassmen returning to a Historically Black College or University in the fall of 2019. The send-off is the closing activity of the council's annual commitment to providing wraparound educational support services to aid students to reach the "Destination HBCU" of their choice. Through this event and with the support of some generous partners and donors, the alumni group is able to continue to do the work in the name of their individual and collective institutions.

Ashleigh Oliver  
*Hampton University*  
Treasurer

Dr. Roderick Adams  
*Fisk University*  
Parliamentarian

Each year, the group host an annual HBCU College Fair, which attracts nearly 5,000 participants from the greater Cleveland community and beyond – reaching as far as Ontario, Canada. The ultimate intent of the fair is to increase college enrollment among under-served and underrepresented youth. This event is followed by the "I've Been Accepted, Now What?" workshop to support students and parents through the financial aid and scholarship preparation process. Finally, during the summer the alums celebrate the graduation and enrollment to the HBCU.

Louis Brownlowe  
*Miles College*  
Chaplain/Historian

**The goals of the send-off are to:**

- Introduce the incoming freshman student and parent(s) to alumni and other current students of the prospective institution,
- Build relationships and capacity with other HBCU students in their respective region, and
- Create a network of resources at the campus level and in the respective community of the institution.

Lester Holmes  
*Alcorn State University*  
Sergeant-at-Arms

According to Anthony H. Brown (Bethune-Cookman University), Council President, "We plan to enjoy this awesome event to celebrate the importance of HBCUs and the next generation of students." He continues to say, "We want to send or return them to college with all of the positive support and encouragement from our community."

This year marked the first time involvement with the FirstEnergy Foundation as the title sponsor. Lorna Wisham, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Community Involvement shares, "The FirstEnergy Foundation is honored to partner with the Cleveland Council of Black Colleges Alumni Association for this annual event. We plan to sustain our relationship with the council by supporting future events. FirstEnergy hopes to become an employer of choice for the students and their families."

Affiliated with the UNCF/ Northern  
Ohio Inter-Alumni Council



Lorna continues to say, "The country's youth are tomorrow's leaders, entrepreneurs and stewards of business and industry, and FirstEnergy is a strong supporter of educational initiatives that

prepare them for a bright future. FirstEnergy hopes to become an employer of choice for the students and their families.”

Other first-time direct event sponsors included the Cleveland Cavaliers, Traveler’s Insurance, A. Better Way Foundation, Dominion Energy, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Returning partners were MetroHealth, Paramount Advantage, Caresource, Metro by T-Mobile, New Life Community Church of God, Dave’s Supermarkets, the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater Cleveland, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Omega Chapter, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Omega Chapter and Lambda Phi Omega Chapter. There were also 24 HBCUs that contributed to the event success.

Event Co-Chair, Nia Allen (Clark Atlanta University) comments, “We are appreciative of more than ten Program Partners and volunteers that will make this day possible. Donations and contributions help sustain our organization and benefit the student community which we serve.”

During this cookout, the alumni council acknowledged the selected 2019 scholarship recipients of the UNCF Northern Ohio Scholars Program and the Anthony H. Brown HBCU Arts Scholar. In addition to the scholarships, totaling \$11,000, many of the registered students received a footlocker/trunk filled with toiletries and other dormitory room needs, care packages and a variety of gift cards.

Scholarship awards were offered to the following students pending final verification of enrollment at their HBCU:

**2019 UNCF-Northern Ohio Scholars**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>HBCU Attending</b>
Douglas Burnett	Incoming Freshman	Morehouse College
Angel Sheeley	Incoming Freshman	Fisk University
Mia Martin	Incoming Freshman	Spelman College
Treasure Eiland	Incoming Freshman	Fisk University
Jade Dedrick	Incoming Freshman	Howard University
Monae Harris	Incoming Freshman	Southern University and A&M College
Brianna Davis	Rising Sophomore	Florida A&M University
Essence Cain	Rising Junior	North Carolina A&T State University
Jermyn Brock	Rising Junior	Lane College
Keshari Alford	Rising Junior	Elizabeth City State University
Jalyn Dickens	Rising Senior	Howard University
Rayshon Shelton	Rising Senior	Morehouse College

**2019 – Anthony H. Brown HBCU Arts Scholar**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>HBCU Attending</b>
Destin Adams	Incoming Freshman	Fayetteville State University

“By partnering with organizations such as the Cleveland Council of Black Colleges Alumni Association, we hope to help students pursue rewarding careers that can sustain families, enhance economic development and enrich our communities,” shared by Dr. Deborah Richardson-Phillips, the Diversity & Inclusion Lead at FirstEnergy and a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, an HBCU in Winston-Salem, NC.

For more information about alumni engagement, membership and donations visit [www.HBCUAlumniCLE.com](http://www.HBCUAlumniCLE.com). To learn about this event or other related programs visit [www.DestinationHBCU.org](http://www.DestinationHBCU.org) or call 216-282-HBCU.

Event photos are available at <https://www.destinationhbcu.org/hbcu-student-send-off.html>

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