A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Moving Forward through the COVID-19 Crisis

This edition of the Forward Newsletter highlights several of the pinnacle moments which took place during the timeframe spanning Fall 2019/Winter 2020. In retrospect, as you will read on the pages which follow, we enjoyed many successes of which we can be proud.

Little did we know then that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) would shake our world to its core. This is no more evident than within the impact this public health emergency has had upon the learning environment – having turned K-12 upside down and caused a total disruption to higher education.

Philander Smith College has certainly not been immune. What started with the College’s ban on non-essential travel in early March quickly escalated to the decision to suspend in-person classes and transition all coursework online, which was followed by the closure of our residential halls for the remainder of the 2020 Spring Semester. Additionally, in alignment with strict social distancing guidelines advised by city, state and federal authorities, the majority of our faculty and staff have been telecommuting. So without the presence of our students and with only a limited number of employees on campus, PSC has been dealing with the effects of COVID-19 on the ways in which we live, learn and work.

The Spring Semester is normally filled with exciting activities and milestones in the lives of our scholars – particularly for those seniors who have been anxiously awaiting their time in the spotlight. But with the cancellation of signature traditions such as Founder’s Day, SpringFest, Honors Convocation and with the unfortunate postponement of Commencement, we have had to readjust our expectations and pivot our priorities to focus on our collective health, safety and well-being. It is not been easy. But the College remains committed to its scholars. From our PSC Cares Emergency Aid Fund to our Panther Pantry ‘At Your Door’ to the myriad virtual and online activities that our Student Affairs Team has activated to keep our student body engaged and connected, Philander Smith College is striving to meet our students wherever they are.

As a resource to keep everyone abreast of the College’s latest news, decisions, activities and information with respect to the dynamic nature of the coronavirus pandemic, we established a dedicated Coronavirus Updates Page at www.philander.edu/coronavirus-updates. It is important that not only our campus community stays updated, but also our friends, supporters, alumni, donors, prospective students and their families should be aware of the important measures we have undertaken and the steps we will take.

Once the state of emergency has been lifted, in many ways it may be a whole new world; however, our calling to the unique ministry of Philander Smith College will be unchanged. Even still, we invite your thoughts, prayers, contributions and advice as we continue to maneuver through these uncharted waters with our sights set on keeping Philander Moving Forward.

College 100 is Chartered at PSC

The 100 Black Men of Greater Little Rock, Inc. held an induction ceremony for the first College 100 Chapter in the State of Arkansas at Philander Smith College on January 26, 2020. Chapter Advisor Dr. Joseph Jones, Associate Professor and Special Assistant to the President, was assisted by Muskie Harris, President of the Little Rock Chapter of 100 Black Men, for the pinning of new members and officers which totaled a group of 15, including Philander Men and Women.

The College 100 is an auxiliary of the national 100 Black Men of America that extends the mission on college and university campuses across America. The mission is to support the sponsoring chapters of 100 Black Men in their efforts to nurture and enhance the growth and development of young Black students.

PSC CARES
Caring For Our Community:
2020 Student Emergency Fund

Help support our students during the immediate and unexpected transitions resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis.

DONATE AT WWW.PHILANDER.EDU/PSC-CARES

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Collegiate 100 is Chartered at PSC

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DONATE AT WWW.PHILANDER.EDU/PSC-CARES
The PSC Lady Panthers Win First Ever GCAC Championship

The PSC Lady Panthers capped a remarkable season on March 8, 2020 by beating the undefeated Talladega Lady Tornadoes to clinch the Women’s GCAC Championship title. The win marks the first time the Lady Panthers have taken the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Title in regular season or tournament action.

The hard-fought victory was cinched after an inspiring season that saw the Lady Panthers come into the tournament play with a 26-7 overall record. During the championship game Head Coach Brandon Greenwood, ’04 and his athletes blew past top-seeded Talladega to a 20-point halftime lead, then fought off the Tornadoes late to take a resounding 68-50 victory.

Adding to the historic win, PSC senior point guard Terralyn Dominick, ’20 took tournament MVP honors and fellow Lady Panthers Ineka Clark, ’21 and Ciara Pettis, ’20 were both named to the All-Tournament team. The entire Panther family celebrated the successful season and dedicated the win in memory of the late Brenda Acklin, the wife of long-time Assistant Coach James Acklin, who passed away in the summer of 2019.

Credit to the milestone championship also goes to Coach Greenwood, who has coached at his alma mater for 13 seasons and has led the Lady Panthers at Head Basketball Coach since 2008. The championship title earned the team a bid in the NAIA tournament, a first in PSC history; however, the outbreak of COVID-19 led to the unfortunate cancellation of all tournament competition across the country.

While disappointed that the team did not get their well-earned appearance on the national stage, Philander Smith College is beyond proud of the work and dedication displayed by these phenomenal athletes and their coaches!}

The Forward Moment is International

President Smothers Continues to make inroads in the Bahamas on behalf of Philander Smith College. In January, invited by the University of the Bahamas and the Iota Epilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Smothers traveled to Nassau to serve as keynote speaker for a 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Lecture. Additionally, while there, the President met with government officials to discuss terms for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Philander Smith College and the Ministry of Education of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. This agreement solidifies the specific intent to facilitate a mutually beneficial exchange of Bahamian students to matriculate at the College, to include scholarships from both parties to aid in the mission of international student recruitment.

Dr. Smothers was set to return to the Bahamas in March to participate in the 2nd Annual HBCU Fair in Nassau; however, the outbreak of COVID-19 canceled those travel plans and postponed the highly-anticipated event – which was expecting tripled participation from last year – until a later time.

PSC greatly enjoys the relationships that have been formed with the students who have been recruited from the Bahamas. With an official MOU in place, the College looks forward to cultivating this partnership that aims to place more high-achieving scholars at the institution to become part of the Philander family.

The Links Support PSC with $20,000 Donation

The Little Rock Chapter of The Links, Incorporated annually supports Arkansas’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through its fundraising initiatives. In February, Links Chapter President Lana Nayles was joined by fellow member Dr. Pebbles Fagan to present a $20,000 contribution to the College on behalf of the organization. PSC Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Sherece West-Scantlebury joined President Smothers to accept and thank The Links for their ongoing commitment to the uplift of the state’s minority-serving institutions.

“What I like most about Philander is that we are family oriented. It’s easy to find your place and form relationships with your professors.”

- Vashanti Storr, freshman
  Mathematics and Chemistry Major
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

After several years of a low profile, the College’s Religious Life Council is stepping up its efforts. Led by student leaders Telia Hadley and Robert Nichols, III, the Council’s primary goal is to provide an avenue for students to grow their knowledge and understanding of faith and service. The Council achieves its mission by implementing a wide range of programmatic activities for both its members and the College’s Community of Scholars. The 2019 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which was planned and executed by the Council, revealed the dramatic impact that student-driven initiatives can have within our community.

The Annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is hosted in November of each year as an opportunity to expose PSC’s Community of Scholars to issues of justice related to food insecurity and homelessness. The week includes educational seminars, volunteer opportunities, and interactive experiences to help students build understanding and explore root causes of these inequities. The 2019 activities also included the grand opening of the Panther Pantry and Fresh Market, which now serves as a supportive structure to help students, faculty, and staff at PSC. The Panther Pantry and Fresh Market is an initiative that was spearheaded by students in the McKinley Newton Honors Academy as a way to respond to some of the needs identified in the College’s Community of Scholars while also beginning a critical conversation on the issues of food insecurity that is very common among college students.

Other activities included the highly anticipated Pack Shack, the “Night Without a Home” immersion activity, and the Annual Baskets of Love Program. This year’s Pack Shack resulted in more than 10,000 meals being packed for needy communities across Arkansas, while the Baskets of Love Program yielded 125 baskets for distribution in the local community to support families during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Both programs afforded students the opportunity to participate in activities designed to address gaps in systems that leave many families struggling. Educational seminars included dialogues on the root causes that contribute to widespread food insecurity and homelessness, as well as panel discussions on policy and actions that can be taken to better support individuals and families struggling with food insecurity and homelessness.

The Religious Life Council, which led both the development and execution of these activities, is an example of the College’s social justice mission in action. By implementing a diverse set of programs that seek to expose Philanderians to the harsh realities and root causes of these issues, the Council sought to bring awareness to a persistent injustice that is not uncommon in many of the urban communities our students call home. Through action-oriented dialogue and education, the week-long series served to build knowledge, share experiences, and encourage advocacy for systemic change in both policies and practices that ultimately impact how our local communities, state and nation tackle the issues of persistent poverty and justice.

HBCUs Celebrated During Annual Fly-In

President Roderick L. Smothers joined chancellors and presidents from other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country for the Fourth Annual HBCU Fly-In which took place in Washington, D.C. The late February event featured a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress to celebrate America’s more than 100 HBCUs.

Among those whom Dr. Smothers met with included United States Senators Tim Scott (SC); Tim Kaine (VA); Kelly Loeffler (GA); Chris Coons (DE); and Sen. Marco Rubio (FL). He participated in a session that allowed the higher education leaders to discuss and acknowledge Congressional support of the pivotal FUTURE Act—that will restore and make permanent a $255 million per year funding stream for HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)—as well as the critical first steps toward simplifying the FAFSA.
VER 25 Philander Smith College scholars traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina for the UNCF 2020 National Alumni Council/Pre-Alumni Council Conference on February 5 through February 8.

More than 500 HBCU students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus leaders converged upon the city to engage in networking and learning. The week’s activities included opportunities for attendees to get acquainted with students, staff and alumni who are on the path to leadership and demonstrate a commitment to the future of higher education.

PSC Scholars shined during the Conference and achieved noteworthy recognition. Freshmen students Joshua Goffney and Jason Muka were both awarded the UNCF Social Media Ambassadors Scholarships earning $2,500 each. Miss Thalia Gaskin, ‘21, represented as the 2019-2020 PSC Miss UNCF and was escorted by Vice President for Institutional Advancement Charles King.

Additionally, and most excitedly, sophomore Christopher Rucker, a Chicago, Illinois, native was elected National President of the UNCF Pre-Alumni Council -- an impressive win over UNCF-institution peers from campuses across the country.

Notable PSC alumni Thurman Green, ’11 and Yvonne Alexander, ’73 were also awarded honors during the week, while alumna Tanisha Manning, ’16 and PSC National Alumni Association leaders, including NAA President Herman L. Davis, ’73, Veronica Nesbitt, ’64 and Edna Ricks, ’64, were on hand to offer support throughout the experience.

PSC scholars were joined by alumni and served as a powerful representation of the Philander legacy.

SJI Partners with Arkansas Counts

AS PART OF ITS BLUEPRINT to act as a convening agent for matters pertaining to human rights and equality, the Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College was a co-host for the Arkansas Complete Count 2020 Census Summit on January 16. The large forum brought together a group of diverse individuals with the purpose of broadly sharing the critical importance of the upcoming 2020 Census. Among the local and state leaders participating in the Summit on the College’s campus included Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Little Rock Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr., and Fort Smith Mayor George McGill who were key speakers during the full-day event. Local citizens, business and non-profit leaders and students also participated in breakout sessions that highlighted key areas, strategies and goals. The event was just one of many designed to educate and raise awareness of the roles we each can play in helping to engage citizens to be counted in the 2020 Census.

Philander Man: Timothy Itodo, ’20

AS GRADUATION QUICKLY APPROACHES, Timothy Itodo is one of the graduating seniors whose career is already taking shape. A native of Abuja, Nigeria, Itodo is a Honors Computer Science major who is has begun to make a name for himself in the world of tech. Not only is he currently a software engineering intern with Accenture in Little Rock, but he has also been offered full time positions with Google and with Walmart eCommerce upon graduation. Recently, Itodo was selected as a Forbes Under 30 Scholar and received an opportunity to attend the Forbes Under 30 Summit which provided his access to investors, entrepreneurs, celebrities, musicians, educators and more. Additionally, he was invited to attend the Emerging Researchers National Conference in Washington, D.C. and he was one of nine students who represented Philander Smith College at the HBCU Making and Innovation Showcase.

Education Scholars Receive AKA Honors

Two Philander Smith College students were presented with the Dr. Philiss Nichols Anderson Teachers of Color Education Book Scholarship from the The Pearls Foundation of Central Arkansas and the Chi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Sophomore Tiana Redmond and junior Elizabeth Washington, both education majors, were each presented the $500 awards during the Scholarship Lunch for The Culture....Artistry and Activism presented by Chi Eta Omega on February 22, 2020 at the Arkansas Governor’s Mansion.

Dr. Phyllis Nichols Anderson, a prominent visionary leader of the Chi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, is a former Assistant Professor of Teacher Education at Philander Smith College and is the Founder and CEO of ScholarMade Achievement Place Public Charter School in Little Rock. The students were accompanied by Dr. Lloyd Sain, Assistant Professor of Education at Philander Smith College.
A Legendary Evening: 2020 Living Legends Banquet

HURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 was an evening of celebration and accolades. Over 400 guests filled the Chenal Country Club in Little Rock to applaud the 2020 class of Living Legends. For the thirteenth year, the Philander Smith College Office of Religious Life and Campus Culture identified local leaders, alumni, faculty, staff and students who have made a lasting impact in the community.

This year’s Living Legends honorees included: PSC alumna, former school district superintendent and pioneer in education Dr. Linda Watson; recently retired higher education leader and former PSC Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.; PSC alumna, national educational leader and Board of Trustee member Dr. Etta Carter; Little Rock pastor and religious leader Rev. Dr. William Robinson, Jr.; community supporter and ministry leader Mrs. Janice Goldman; longtime PSC Director of Recruitment Mr. Paul Person; and current PSC scholar and student leader Mr. Benjamin Jackson.

“These individuals have served God by serving their community,” says Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, PSC Chaplain and Dean of Religious Life and Campus Culture. “Each year we are honored to take this opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals for their legacy of leadership and service. It is their commitment and sacrifice that continues to uplift our communities, and they are more than deserving of the recognition.”

The Living Legends Banquet was the apex of the 2020 Religious Emphasis Week. The annual observance serves to engage our campus and the surrounding community in programming geared toward intellectual and spiritual growth. Themed “The Right to Write,” the week kicked off Sunday, February 16 with a guest sermon by Dr. Christopher Davis of St. Paul Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. Other special guests throughout the observance included Dr. John Adolf of Beaumont, Texas, International Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook and Rev. J.J. Whitney, Chaplain of Hendrix College in Conway. The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir helped to close Religious Emphasis Week with a choral concert—“An Evening of Sacred Music”—on Friday, February 21.

The Office of Religious and Campus Culture is appreciative of all those who participated to help make this annual emphasis on Christian heritage and uplift a terrific success.
PSC Celebrates Black History by Recognizing High School Excellence

FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, Philander Smith College has dedicated a special Black History Month celebration to recognize local high school academic all-stars during the African American High School Honors Ceremony. Since its inception, the program has honored over 1,000 high school seniors from Central Arkansas schools. This year’s event, which took place on Sunday, February 23 in the Crawford J. Mims Gymnasium, was the largest yet, with approximately 300 students receiving recognition.

Established to celebrate academic excellence in the African American Community among high school seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, the program honors students from several school districts throughout the area including charter and private schools. In addition to recognition for their high school academic performance, Philander Smith also awards scholarships to eligible student attendees. For the 2020 program, a total of approximately $7.5 million in scholarships were announced.

"Because Central Arkansas is home to such bright and talented young people, it was our desire to not only applaud the outstanding high school careers of young scholars, but to also afford them with an opportunity to earn a first-class college education right here at Philander Smith," said President Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. "We could not think of a better way to help observe Black History Month than by placing in the spotlight the next generation of future leaders and history-makers with an effort to encourage higher education."

A highlight of the afternoon were the two current PSC scholars featured as speakers, both of whom are from Little Rock and are alumni of the program, to honor high school excellence. Jamees Lamberti, ’21 and Nia James, ’20, attended the ceremony as high school seniors and their experiences in being recognized and awarded scholarships led them to alter their plans and enroll at Philander Smith College.

Following the ceremony, the student honorees, their families, and guests were invited to a reception in the atrium of the Kendall Center where they were able to network with PSC faculty, staff, Division Chairs and current students to gain firsthand knowledge of the Philander Experience— to include academic programs, financial aid resources and student services.

Joint Meeting of Executive Minds

THE JOINT MEETING between the College’s Executive Cabinet and the Executive Board of the PSC Student Government Association has continued to serve as a meaningful meeting of the minds as we work to live out our student-centered and mission-focused values. Led by SGA President William Kelly, the Student Government Association remains committed to improving the student experience at Philander Smith College through its focus on increasing student voice in the decision-making process at the College, strengthening student-led initiatives, and building awareness on matters that impact the College’s ability to effectively recruit and retain students.

In the 2019-2020 Academic Year, these meetings have provided a designated time and place for the Administration to share the College’s plans for expansion to address growing pains related to four years of double-digit enrollment growth. Additionally, the meetings have provided an important forum for student leaders to weigh in on the most critical needs that impact the day-to-day experience of current Philanderians. Most importantly, the joint meetings reaffirm the Administration’s commitment to including students in discussions that ultimately shape the College’s future. Like many SGA Administrations over the years, the 2019-2021 SGA Executive Board has outlined an ambitious agenda to realize a better and more dynamic Philander Smith College for all students. In the 2019 Fall Semester, the SGA Executive Board pushed an agenda that would establish more student friendly spaces on the Main Campus and increase student involvement in both academic and co-curricular activities. The Board’s advocacy help to create and shape specific priorities for the College’s Executive Cabinet and increased opportunities for collaboration.

As we make our way through the 2020 Spring Semester, the College’s Executive Cabinet and the SGA Executive Board remain committed to pursuing our big dreams and realizing our full potential as we work to move Philander Forward!

National Club Finds New Home at PSC

A GROUP OF ELEVEN PHILANDER WOMEN were recently inducted into the Mary Louise Williams Collegiate Chapter of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs. In December, the Frances Harper Charity Club, the local professional affiliate of NACWC and sponsor of the collegiate chapter, held a special induction and charter ceremony on campus in the Kendall Nugent Center. Leading the initiation was Chapter President Sandra Williams-Gibson along with special guests Andrea Brooks-Smith, NACWC National President, Regional President Vhaness Brooks and State President Glendean McGill.

With the motto “Lifting as we climb,” the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs was formed in July 1896; one of its founders was Harriet Tubman. Mary Louise Williams of Little Rock, for whom the new chapter is named, is a 92-year-old noted educator, political leader, Arkansas Black Hall of Fame inductee, and a Frances Harper Charity Club Member. Also a vigorous supporter of Philander Smith College, Williams has been a part of the organization for more than 40 years.
Women’s History Month is an annual celebration, during the month of March, of the over-looked contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. Philander Smith College was fortunate to mark the observance with a day of events to honor and uplift women within the Campus Community.

Platinum by Design, a student organization comprised of Philander Women, hosted events to celebrate womanhood on Thursday, March 5, 2020. The women first took charge of the Women’s History Month Chapel Service, which featured guest speaker Evangelist Ashley Johnson of Jacksonville, Ark. who brought a power-packed message for the women in attendance.

The worship service was followed by the 5th Annual Hats, Heels and Hugs Luncheon in the Montgomery Private Dining Hall. Co-sponsored by the Social Justice Institute along with Platinum by Design, the signature ladies-only Luncheon featured motivational speaker Vontifany Smith, a 2000 PSC graduate, who spoke to encourage and ignite the “boss” in every woman.

Throughout its history, women have had a significant impact on the landscape of Philander Smith College – helping to mold it for each new generation of scholars since 1877.

A Day of Impact and Celebration

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, Philander Smith College served in partnership with the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission (AMLKC) and the City of Little Rock to host the Annual MLK Day of Impact event. This multifaceted, daylong event draws attendees of all ages from around the state and is known as one of the largest ‘day of service’ events honoring Dr. King.

Led by AMLKC Executive Director DuShun Scarbrough, this year’s MLK Day of Impact continued the tradition of featuring a number of community services including, a coat drive, blood drive, free haircuts and food. Additionally, Rock Region Memo unveiled a newly wrapped Martin Luther King theme bus and offered free bus rides. In addition, there were various vendors, hygiene kits, health screenings, free legal services, and more.

The AMLKC also to the opportunity to recognize leaders in our community who have made significant impacts. Honoraries included Kathy Byrd, Sergeant Willie Davis, Diablo Coleman, and Ro’Chelle Turner. In addition to the honors, guests who gathered in the Mims Gymnasium were also treated to a variety of talks and performances by celebrity guests including Carl Anthony Payne, Romeo, Le’Andria Johnson and Tiffany Andrews.

PSC Scholars Earn 2nd Place for Mobile App Design

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION are at the forefront of the global economy; and our PSC computer science majors are keeping pace! In February 2020, over nine Philander scholars traveled to Washington, DC, for the 2020 HBCU Making and Innovation Showcase. Sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with funding from the National Science Foundation, the Showcase aims to encourage increased participation in STEM-related innovation and entrepreneurship activities by students of color. Each year, participating teams design and implement prototypes using hardware and software to address one of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

‘Team Philander’ earned second place in the competition for their mobile application “Tahfeez” beating out competitors from over seventeen other HBCUs around the country. Tahfeez, which means motivation in Arabic, is a mobile application that strives to help encourage and motivate college students as they complete their studies. Complete with goal setting, badges and awards, plus other motivational elements, the app is geared towards students on campuses around the world.

In addition to the showcase, PSC students also attended sessions of the Emerging Research National Conference (ERN) with over 1,500 other attendees. This conference is centered on enhancing science communication skills and helping students to better understand how to prepare for science careers in the global workforce.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Returns to Philander

DR. ANTHONY JOHNSON has been named the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs effective February 1, 2020. Dr. Johnson, who previously served as the College’s Vice President for Sponsored Programs and Undergraduate Research, has served in faculty and administrative roles in higher education for more than twenty years. As an experienced administrator, Dr. Johnson has built an excellent track record of supporting innovative teaching and learning practices, advancing student success initiatives, as well as maintaining accreditation at both the academic program and institutional levels. In his capacity, Dr. Johnson will oversee all of the College’s academic programs, monitor all academic assessment and evaluation activities, as well as support program-related and institutional accreditation efforts. Dr. Johnson’s interim appointment is in effect through June 30, 2020. A national search to identify permanent leadership by July 1, 2020 is expected to be launched in the coming weeks.

Emerging Researchers National Conference in STEM
Dressed to impress, several outstanding Philander Men and Women posed alongside President Smothers at the 2020 Living Legends Banquet.

The President’s Annual State of the College Address is always made special because of the presence of the students, including the PSC Royal Court.

Dr. Smothers lent his support to the Philander Smith Collegiate Choir during their performance at the First Missionary Baptist Church 175th Anniversary / Black History Musical by invitation of State Sen. Linda Chesterfield.

The Annual HBC Fly-In is an opportunity for college and university leaders to advocate for their institutions. President Smothers and UAPB Chancellor Dr. Alexander did just that as they greeted Arkansans Congressman (and Co-Founder of the HBCU Fly-In) French Hill.

The future of HBCUs is strong in the capable hands of these hard-working, dedicated leaders: Wiley College President Herman Felton, Jr., Benedict College President Dr. Roslyn Artis and PSC President Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.

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President Smothers joined with others to thank Ventrell Thompson for Entergy Arkansas’ ongoing partnership to establish a Minority Engineering Program at PSC. Seen here is a $50,000 check presentation as part of the company’s $250,000 commitment to endow an engineering professorship in honor of the late Oscar Washington, a beloved Entergy Arkansas executive.

Following the successful Clergy Empowerment Luncheon, ministers in attendance took time for a photo opportunity with Dr. Smothers and guest speaker Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook.

The President celebrated Black Excellence with a few of the members of the Beta Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at Philander Smith College.

The President was proud to share the spotlight with the Lady Panthers following their defeat of the Dillard Blue Devils 75-59 on Senior Night.

Dr. Smothers celebrated Black Excellence with a few of the members of the Beta Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at Philander Smith College.