The Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
The Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc.
The Gamma Mu Boule of Phoenix, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly present

THE 15TH ANNUAL
LIVING HISTORY
AWARDS PROGRAM

IN RECOGNITION OF
THE ART OF
ACADEMIA

A BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

SAT 2020
February 29
9 a.m.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
1401 E. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona
WELCOME
Hosting Organizations
Ms. Lisa Cobb, Phoenix Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.
Ms. Cheryl Pete, Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
Mr. Jocquese Blackwell, Esq., Gamma Mu Boulé of Phoenix, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

NATIONAL ANTHEM & NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
Pastor Terry E. Mackey, Senior Pastor
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES & FOUNDERS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESENTERS
Miss Morgan Cobb, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Phoenix Chapter Alumni
Miss Victoria Davis, Jack and Jill of America Inc., Phoenix Chapter Teen President

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONOREES
Today’s honorees are proudly presented by the 2020 Phoenix Chapter of The Links Debutantes and the Teens from the Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc.

DR. RUFUS GLASPER
Presenters: Carmen Chambers, Brian Kinsey, Jacqueline Okeke and Omokoresola Omodara
Mentors: Edmond Baker, MD, Sigma Pi Phi; Traci Fitzhugh, Jack & Jill; Sigma Pi Phi; and Judy Greene, MD, The Links

DR. JOSEPHINE PETE
Presenters: Ian Sherwood, Ashaya Stewart, Jordan Williams and Zari Williams
Mentors: Beverly Arrington, The Links; Donald Bland, Sigma Pi Phi; and Leslie Fuqua Williams, Jack & Jill

DR. NEAL LESTER
Presenters: Aljah Koostian, Autumn Matthews and Nichelle Moore
Mentors: Christine Goodman, Jack & Jill; Kevin Robinson, Sigma Pi Phi; and Britany Williams, The Links

DR. LAVERN TARKINGTON
Presenters: Maya Cobb, Nyla Godbold, JorDyn Kearney and Naedia Williams
Mentors: Tyrone Benson, Sigma Pi Phi; Lisa Cobb, Jack & Jill; and Velmeta Robertson, The Links

DR. CAMILLA WESTENBERG
Presenters: Madison Shealy, Maya Smith, Amanda York and Kendall Young
Mentors: Florence Franklin, Jack & Jill; Shirley Mays, The Links; and Dwayne Sansone, Sigma Pi Phi

DR. STACIA WILSON
Presenters: Donald Franklin III, Nia Richardson, Shnia Stewart and Isabella Watkins
Mentors: Lindell Collins, The Links; Tony Franklin, Sigma Pi Phi; and Arlisa Richards, Jack & Jill

CLOSING REMARKS
Mrs. Joan Sherwood, President, Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Mr. Kevin Robinson, Sire Archon, Gamma Mu Boulé, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Mrs. Dawn Smith, President, Phoenix Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.
DR. RUFUS GLASPER is President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College, an international nonprofit organization with a mission to cultivate innovation in the community college environment in a continuing effort to advance the community college field and make a positive difference for students and communities. Dr. Glasper, Chancellor Emeritus of the Maricopa Community Colleges, served as Chancellor from 2003 through February 2016, and held district leadership positions for three decades. Dr. Glasper serves as a member of numerous advisory boards advancing higher education research and strategic initiatives locally and nationally. He also served as trustee for the Higher Learning Commission and the American Council on Education. Dr. Glasper is an active community member, serving on the boards of the Arizona Community Foundation and Sandra Day O’Connor Institute.

DR. NEAL A. LESTER is Foundation Professor of English and Founding Director of Project Humanities at Arizona State University. He has been a Professor of English at Arizona State University since 1997, having taught previously at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)—the first African American faculty member tenured in the Department of English—and at the University of Montevallo (AL). His areas of specialization are African American literature and cultural studies. Dr. Lester is the author or co-author/ editor of seven books and has published, lectured, and taught extensively in the area of African American Studies. His course, "The N-word: An Anatomy Lesson," the only such course taught in the country, has garnered local, national, and international attention. In 2013, Dr. Lester served as the lead editor of the international journal of children's literature, The Lion and The Unicorn, a special issue on children, childhood and hair.

DR. JOSEPHINE PETE is the retired Deputy Superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District (PUHSD). During the 1990's, Phoenix Union High School was one of the largest high school districts in the State of Arizona. She served as the Executive Director of Human Relations at the PUHSD before being promoted to the Deputy Superintendent. She was the first African American to hold this position. Dr. Pete served the education community for 39 years beginning as a Roosevelt School District teacher. Dr. Pete is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2018 Outstanding Educator Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW). She holds the honor of participating on the committee for the 2012 commission of the USS Oscar Austin Navy Destroyer and participates in the annual celebration. Dr. Pete is a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and an active member of the Phoenix South Mountain Seventh Day Adventist Church.
**2020 Living History Award Recipients**

**Dr. Lavern S. Tarkington** is a retired educator. Having retired as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources of the Tempe Union High School District, she was selected to return as the Interim Superintendent. Her career within the District included teacher, counselor, director, and principal before returning to central office to complete her service at the Superintendent’s level. Dr. Tarkington has been involved with many community activities, including the Phoenix Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for more than 50 years. In July, 2012, she completed four years of service as the Far Western Regional Director for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. As an active member of First Institutional Baptist Church, she has served as a board member and chairman of FBICO Family Services and was elected to serve a three-year term on the Governance Council.

**Dr. Camilla Westenberg** is English Professor Emeritus with Phoenix College, Maricopa Community College District, having served as a tenured professor for more than 30 years. Dr. Westenberg served as the coordinator for Developmental English and chaired the Developmental Education Assessment Committee for NCA Accreditation. She developed and taught a class titled “Rap Literature: The Oral Tradition” and has presented on the genre nationally and internationally. Dr. Westenberg continues to serve as a community resource for the student NAACP/BSU for which she was advisor for more than 20 years. She is the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of her deep commitment to student success and extensive civic and community engagement including: three NISOD Excellence Awards from The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, the “Forum on Exemplary Teaching” Award from the American Association for Higher Education, the Maricopa County NAACP Image Award for Education, and the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Award.

**Dr. Stacia Wilson** has served the Tempe community as an educator for more than twenty years. Stacia began her high school teaching career at Desert Vista High School where she taught English. In 2007, Stacia was promoted to an administrative role at Tempe High. She served as a high school administrator in the Tempe Union High School District for ten years in the roles of assistant principal of activities, assistant principal of academics and principal. During her time as an administrator at Tempe High School, the school received an 'A' rating by the Arizona Department of Education and was a recipient of Arizona Education Foundation's A+ School of Excellence Award. Currently, she serves as the Associate Superintendent for the Tempe Union High School District where she is responsible for the supervision of the daily operations and works with the Superintendent in realizing the direction of the District Strategic Plan.
In the fall of 2005, Jack & Jill father and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Gamma Mu Boule Member Myles Lynk proposed an activity for Jack & Jill teens that would enhance their knowledge of Black History within Arizona – a visit to Fort Huachuca, home of the African American "Buffalo Soldiers." Mr. Lynk subsequently raised with Jack & Jill father and Gamma Mu Boulé member Dr. Larry Leverett, the idea of bringing the Phoenix Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., and the Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc., together to host a program for African-American youth that would acknowledge the need and help fill the gap for a better understanding of Arizona's Black History. From this idea grew the collective inspiration of celebrating the long-standing achievement of Arizona African-Americans through an annual programmed event.

Excitement about the possibilities of this event grew, instantly. Later that year, Mrs. Geneva Spigner, Arts Committee Co-Chair, Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc. and Mrs. Sheila Dickerson, President of the Phoenix Chapter of Jack & Jill, joined Mr. Lynk and Dr. Leverett to continue the conversation about a formal celebration. "How wonderful it would be if we could all collaborate on a program that would honor Black History Month," they agreed.

From those initial conversations emerged a novel idea to commemorate Black History Month by showcasing outstanding Arizona pioneers – people who have been an integral part of the history of Phoenix. The criteria for this award was, and continues to be: longevity in the Arizona community; service in the African-American community; and high stature in the Arizona community and beyond.

The first “Living History” Program was a collaborative effort of Jack and Jill of America (Mrs. Denise Leverett and Mrs. Sheila Dickerson), The Links (Mrs. Geneva Spigner and Dr. Kay Taylor Oliver) and Sigma Pi Phi, Gamma Mu Boule of Phoenix (Mr. Myles Lynk, Dr. Larry Leverett and Judge Cecil Patterson). Held in February 2006 at the Carver Museum and Cultural Center, that active collaboration has continued for more than 10 years and continues to flourish. The program has mentored more than 500 students in advanced research and communications skills, highlighted the accomplishments of nearly 100 African American legends in our Arizona community and introduced their accomplishments to more than 1,000 youth.

Each year we celebrate the lives and accomplishments of a distinguished group of pioneers and innovators in a given field. Teens from Jack and Jill, along with The Links Cotillion Debutantes or Jack and Jill Beautillion Beaus interview and present these distinguished leaders. It is a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the contributions African Americans have made in the shaping of Phoenix and the world.
LIVING HISTORY HONOREE SELECTION COMMITTEE

TRI-CHAIRS
Shari Mauney Burkholder, Esq., Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Tasha Brown, Esq., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Phoenix Chapter
Jocquese Blackwell, Esq., Gamma Mu Boulé of Phoenix, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Edmond Baker, Sigma Pi Phi
Jocquese Blackwell, Sigma Pi Phi
Tasha Brown, Jack & Jill
Shari Burkholder, The Links
Lisa Cobb, Jack & Jill
Ahmed Collins, Sigma Pi Phi
Alisa Crighton-Thompson, Jack & Jill
Joyce Daily-Buford, The Links
Michele Halyard, The Links
Cheryl Pete, The Links
Kevin Robinson, Sigma Pi Phi
Dwayne Sansone, Sigma Pi Phi
Natalee Sansone, Jack & Jill
Joan Sherwood, The Links
Tara Winey, Jack & Jill

2020 LIVING HISTORY MENTORS

Jack & Jill Mentors
Lisa Cobb
Traci Fitzhugh
Florence Franklin
Christine Goodman
Leslie Fuqua Williams

Links Mentors
Beverly Arrington
Lindell Collins
Judy Greene
Shirley Mays
Velmeta Robinson
Britany Williams

Boulé Mentors
Edmond Baker
Tyrone Benson
Donald Bland
Tony Franklin
Kevin Robinson
Dwayne Sansone

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:

Interviewing Techniques
Shirley Mays, Esq.

PowerPoint Pointers and Powerful Public Speaking
Tony Franklin

Dress for Success
Beah Williams

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Pastor Terry E. Mackey, Senior Pastor