



# The VOICE

The Official Newsletter for the National Black Graduate Student Association

## July 2010

2010-2011

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Founding President Dr. Todd C. Shaw, Past President Bates, IPP Ligon, and Past President Dr. Ivan B. Turnipseed

Greetings NBGSA Members and Supporters, and welcome to this quarter's edition of *The Voice*. We are excited for the year and look forward to sharing our great accomplishments with all of you. Founded in 1989, the NBGSA provides graduate students with critical resources that enhance their scholastic and social experience. Since that year, our members have continued to use their scholarship and service to enrich our campuses, communities, and this beautiful country we call America. *The Voice Newsletter* empowers each of us to share our stories and accomplishments and break the silence on key issues that affect our community.

Continues on page 17.

### Regional Representatives

**North Central Region:** Dalton Crayton, *University of Minnesota at Mankato* & Deborah L. Strahorn, *Wright State University* **Northeast Region:** Percy E. Isaac, *Morgan State University* & Britney D. Whaley, *George Mason University* **South Central Region:** Alexander G. Washington, *Mississippi State University* **Southeast Region:** Delishia Pittman, *University of Georgia* & Lauren Williams, *Clark Atlanta University* **Western Region:** Stephen K. Ndzeidze, *Oregon State University* & MeCherri Traver, *University of Oregon*

# Introducing the 2010-2011 NBGSA Leadership Team



**Antonio J. White**  
President  
*Morgan State University*

**Dhymsey Z. V. Owens**  
Vice President for Administrative Affairs  
*Virginia State University*

**Ivory M. Berry**  
Vice President for Conference Affairs  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Dominique C. Hill**  
Vice President for Membership Affairs  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Amber M. Wilburn**  
Vice President for Information Services  
*Oregon State University*

## North Central Regional Representatives

**Dalton Crayton**, *University of Minnesota at Mankato*

**Deborah L. Strahorn**, *Wright State University*

## Northeast Regional Representatives

**Percy E. Isaac**, *Morgan State University*

**Britney D. Whaley**, *George Mason University*

## South Central Regional Representative

**Alexander G. Washington**, *Mississippi State University*

## Southeast Regional Representatives

**Delishia Pittman**, *University of Georgia*

**Lauren Williams**, *Clark Atlanta University*

## Western Regional Representatives

**Stephen K. Ndzeidze**, *Oregon State University*

**McCherri Tarver**, *University of Oregon*

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**Lecia J. Gresham**  
Historian  
*Jackson State University*

**Tina L. Ligon**  
Immediate Past President  
*Morgan State University*

## Finance Committee

**Kelly M. Bryd** (chair), *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Jamon Holt**, *University of Georgia*

**Joseph Johnson**, *Western Michigan University*

**Tarryn McGhie**, *University of Nevada at Las Vegas*

**April Warren-Grice**, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

## Judicial Commission

**Ehraeda F. Rucker** (chair), *University of Nevada at Reno*

**Kinnis K. Gosha**, *Clemson University*

**Wazir Suni Jefferson**, *University of Utah*

**Candice N. Morrison**, *University of Arizona*

## Nominations & Elections Commission

**Irene O. Aninye** (chair), *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Dominique V. Harrison**, *University of Texas at Austin*

**Ge'Andra Johnson**, *University of Tulsa*

**Antoinette Landor**, *University of Georgia*

**Conference Recap  
"Pioneering the Change Within"  
Hilton Del Mar  
San Diego, California  
March 11-14, 2010**



For More Conference Recap Visit  
<http://www.nbgsa.org/recap2010/>

# 2010 Conference Winners



## Willie D. Lawson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Ndidi Amutah-Hardrick  
*University of Maryland College Park*

Dominique C. Hill  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Antoinette Landor  
*University of Georgia*

**Michael A. Powell, Esq. Service Award**  
Rowena P. Campbell, University of Arizona

## Paper Presentation Winners

**Rhea Watson** *University of Nevada at Las Vegas*  
"With Female Faces Does It Matter If They're Black or White? A Study of African American and Caucasian Males Attraction to Female Faces"

**Courtney Henderson** *University of Hawaii*  
"Psychoanalysis and Beloved: Using One to Read the Other"

**Brittany Clay** *Mississippi State University*  
"Feline Immunodeficiency Viral and Igg Detection of Amniotic Fluid and Serum Samples of Fiv-Infected Early and Late Term Queens"



## Poster Presentation Winners

**Kristi Porter** *Emory University*  
"HIV-1- Induced 5-Lipoxygenase: Potential Role in HIV- Related Pulmonary Hypertension"

**Thomandra Sam** *Auburn University*  
"Engaging and Mobilizing White Professionals toward Multicultural Practices: Enhancing Psychologist and Teacher Training"

**Sherry Adesina** *Emory University*  
"Role of Tyrosine Phosphorylation on MDH2 Enzyme Activity in Cancer Cells"

# Emory University

## 2010 Chapter of the Year



Emory University's BGSA faced several obstacles when preparing for the 2009-2010 school year. Our objectives were to forge new collaborations, increase member participation, and provide engaging and entertaining activities for our student body with an executive board that consisted of several graduate students new to both Emory and BGSA. Although it seemed daunting, we steamed full speed ahead and the result was an award-winning year!

As a start to our year together, the BGSA executive board participated in a teambuilding event. These activities allowed us to let our guards down and really get to know the individuals we would be working closely with for the next academic school year. Because we learned about each other and were able to trust one another, we created an environment of support that made us all culpable for the successes (and mistakes) that occurred along the way.

We continued our Big Sibling/Little Sibling initiative which serves to connect advanced students with newer graduate students for knowledge, guidance, and support. We also made sure everyone had access to Emory BGSA events and activities by improving our communication methods. We contacted our student body using multiple methods including emails, social networks like Facebook, and the Emory University Blackboard site.

It was also important that we reach out to the Emory community to create partnerships with other campus organizations. As a result, we were able to work with the Emory Campus Republicans in a September 11<sup>th</sup>

Memorial and organize a spectacular Casino Night event with Residence Life & Housing that was both fun and fundraising. We also collaborated with other Emory student organizations and Atlanta Universities in planning various social events such as the End of the Year Barbeque.

Moreover, we were mindful to plan events that catered to all graduate students. With this in mind, we hosted several events with either a political, professional, financial focus. These programs included the Atlanta Mayoral Election Discussion, the Emory Black Alumni Career Symposium, and the Money Matters Seminar. We also know that the life of a grad student is far from glamorous so we attempted to organize a wide array of programs and events that were still reasonably-priced or free! Our Welcome Back Mixer, Holiday Party, All Black Affair, Jazz at the High, Black GRADvity Lunch series, Castleberry Hills Art Stroll were all free or deeply discounted so that all our students could have fun with friends while maintaining a sound budget.

In closing, our most useful lesson an executive board was to come together to support each other in our singular goal of making the Emory University BGSA a bigger and better student organization. We all wanted to show that we could go out into the community and make improvements – and we all learned and accomplished it together.

~2009-2010 Emory University's  
Black Graduate Student Association

# 2009-2010 NBGSA Leadership Team Awards

**Leadership Team Member of the Year**

**Ivory M. Berry**

**Vice President for Conference Affairs**



**Regional Representative of the Year**

**Dominique C. Hill**

**North Central Region**



**Advisor of the Year**

**Dr. Ivan B. Turnipseed**

**Central Connecticut State University**



**Congratulations to Aysha L. Foster and Dhymsey V. Z. Owens (Southeast Regional Representatives) for Recruiting the Most New Members**

# Congratulations to All of Our Spring and Summer 2010 Graduates!

**Thomandra S. Sam, PhD** *Auburn University*

Received her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Counseling Psychology

**Aysha Foster** *Virginia State University*

Received her Master of Science Degree in Psychology

**Karim Jackson** *Wright State University*

Received his Master of Education Degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education

**Da'Shaun A. Joseph** *George Washington University*

Received her Master in Systems Engineering Degree

**Tarryn McGhie** *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Received his Master of Science Degree in Educational Psychology

**Derrick Sendi** *Wright State University*

Received his Master of Education Degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education

**Deborah Strahorn** *Wright State University*

Received her Master of Education Degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education



# Members' Announcements

**Ndidi Amutah-Hardrick** *University of Maryland College Park*  
Inducted into Delta Omega, the Public Health Honor Society in May 2010. She will also begin her Kellogg Community Health Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Fall of 2010.

**Vickie Casanova** *Indiana University Northwest*  
Received the Award for Excellence in Urban Studies and Community Development from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Award for Excellence in Research from the Department of Minority Studies

**Brenda Eldridge** *Liberty University*  
Began her graduate study in the Summer of 2010. She will be pursuing a Master in Divinity.

**Jilandra Williams** *Lipscomb University*  
Completed her first year of graduate school and earned a 4.0 grade point average

**Lecia J. Gresham** *Jackson State University*  
Became engaged to Preston Robinson, III on July 4, 2010.

**Jeniece T. Lusk** *Bloomsburg University*  
Accepted a tenure-track appointment as an Assistant Professor at SUNY-Onondaga Community College beginning Fall 2010. She also plans to receive her PhD from Baylor University in August.

**Donald Mitchell, Jr.** *University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*  
Passed his oral prelims and successfully defended his dissertation proposal. In addition, he accepted a position as the Graduate Recruitment & Retention Specialist in the David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity in the Arts, Sciences and Engineering at the University of Rochester (NY).



"Improving the Status  
of Blacks in Higher  
Education..."



# Membership News from the Vice President for Information Services

Greetings and welcome, NBGSA members!

The 2010-2011 Leadership Team is excited about the upcoming school year and working extremely hard to continue the notable legacy of NBGSA by serving as the national voice for Black graduate and professional students.

Since the NBGSA is a virtual organization, the majority of our networking is done via the internet. As a way to provide more services to our members, I, along with the Vice President for Membership Affairs, Dominique C. Hill, and the NBGSA webmaster, Kinnis K. Gosha, have been working diligently to improve the National website and provide other avenues of communication to our membership. As a result of this, we will establish a MyPortal which will launch this summer.

The main goal of the MyPortal is to provide Black graduate and professional student with contact information in a central location. Among the most exciting elements of the portal are the NBGSA membership database as well as a Black faculty database. These databases will serve as a virtual networking agency to Black graduate and undergraduate students by providing you with contact information of Black faculty and other NBGSA members throughout the nation. In addition, this portal will provide information regarding internships/summer research positions, fellowship listings for students of color, and diversity conference information and much more. Only paid NBGSA members who register for this site will have access to the information.

As you can tell, we have been busy! We look forward to launching MyPortal this summer and we hope that you enjoy and take advantage of it. We hope to see you at some of the events scheduled in your Region!

*Until then, stay young, gifted, and Black.*

Amber Wilburn, MPH  
Vice President of Information Services  
Oregon State University  
vpinformation@nbgsa.org



## Membership News from the Vice President for Membership Affairs

Greetings! On behalf of the leadership of the National Black Graduate Student Association, WELCOME!

We are so pleased you have chosen to become part of a dynamic, growing, and impactful organization. As a national organization aiming to serve Black graduate students, our goals are to address the professional needs of Blacks – diasporically – in higher education and offer our members the best resources to ensure matriculation through and success after graduate school.

The 2010-2011 Leadership Team, under the leadership of our new President, Antonio White, the 2010-2011 NBGSA Executive Council is planning a fantastic upcoming year for our members and affiliate chapters. As VP for Membership I am charged with the demanding and fruitful responsibilities of recruiting, connecting, and retaining our members. Connected to this role is the 2010-2011 Membership Campaign, *Necessary Commitments: Building Community for Revolutionary Change*, which we will implement with conviction and honor.

Specifically the 2010-2011 Membership Platform has three interrelated pillars:

- Relationship Building - Encourage Black faculty and professionals as well as other faculty and professionals who support the mission of NBGSA to become affiliate members.
- Visibility - Expose more universities, graduate students, and companies to our growing, and dynamic organization.
- Envisioning Community - at the core of this pillar is to expand our boundaries of membership and to whom we (as individuals and as an organization) are responsible. These expansions include those of the Black Diaspora and those who are committed to helping and enhancing the educational experiences and quality of life for Black graduate students specifically and Black people generally.

As we continue to grow as an organization, I encourage you to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities we have to offer. Now that you have a glimpse into the organization, its goals, and visions, it is time for you to get involved, remain active, and inform others about this growing organization.

*In Your Service,*

Dominique C. Hill  
Vice President for Membership Affairs  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
vpmembership@nbgsa.org



# Opinion Piece

## “A View from Arizona”

### Arizona, the Laws Sparking Controversy, and Students’ Reaction

By Ada Dieke

Doctoral Student, University of Arizona

The year 2010 is shaping up to be quite eventful, especially for residents of the state of Arizona. In April of this year, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer and the Arizona State Legislature passed state law, SB 1070, that aims to deter unlawful entry and existence in the United States. The law, going into effect in August, allows local law enforcement to detain individuals that do not have the proper documentation that proves that are legal residents. Critics of SB 1070 state that the measure gives police the power to racially profile and harass individuals in determining their immigration status. Critics also feel that the law unfairly targets Hispanic individuals, who make up a high percentage of the population. In addition, many in law enforcement argues that SB 1070 would further complicate fighting crime, because more attention would have to be given in determining the legal status of individuals and the trust between the community and the police would be broaden. Supporters claim that SB 1070 cracks down on not only illegal immigration, but on the increase in crimes that comes from drug trafficking through the Arizona-Mexico border. Supporters have also stated that the influx of illegal immigrants in the state drains resources in Arizona that may be available to legal citizens, and that the law is a necessary deterrent to illegal entry. Furthermore, it has been said that illegal immigration is unfair considering that individuals seeking citizenship must go through all the legal channels to become naturalized. SB 1070 was later amended to maintain that racial profiling will not be tolerated in the detainment of illegal immigrants.

Two weeks after signing this legislation, Governor Brewer signed into law HB 2281, a law that bans ethnic studies in Arizona schools. The law prohibits public schools to teach classes that

“promote the overthrow of the U.S. government or resentment towards a race or class of people...” Critics have called the law discriminatory and unfairly targets the Tucson Unified School District’s Mexican-American Studies department. In April, it was also reported that there was a push from the Arizona Department of Education to reassign teachers teaching English with an accent. Currently, it is being reported that there is a new bill on the table pushed by Arizona Republicans to target “anchor babies,” their term for children of illegal immigrant parents born in the U.S. The bill would “deny birth certificates to children born in Arizona – and thus American citizenship according to the U.S. Constitution – to parents who are not legal U.S. citizens.” This bill would challenge the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which grants citizenship to anyone born in the United States.

The proposal and passage of these laws indicate Arizona is on a mission. Some feel there are racist motivations, some feel otherwise and say it is a justified tough crackdown. Whatever the case may be, these laws have led to politically and emotionally charged actions for people on both sides of the issue.



## “A View from Arizona”

Immigration law supporters have held rallies to show their support for Governor Brewer, SB 1070 and other Arizona laws. The “Phoenix Rising” rally held in Phoenix, was set to feature speakers that sponsored passage of these bills and support strict immigration law enforcement. It has also been reported that close to twelve other states in the U.S. are considering adopting similar immigration laws. There are Facebook groups calling for a million supporters of the immigration laws and there are polls which show that 51% of the nation supports Arizona’s SB 1070 law.

Critics of the law SB 1070 have called for a boycott of the state of Arizona. Cities and schools districts within Arizona have sued or stated their opposition of the laws and cities such as Los Angeles and have declared boycotts on the entire state of Arizona. Organizations such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., moved their convention from Phoenix, Arizona to Las Vegas, Nevada. There is also a Facebook group calling for a million supporters *against* SB 1070. On the campus of the University of Arizona, students have joined protests against SB 1070 and recently some students participated in a rally of 100,000 in Phoenix, called “Alto Arizona.” This movement called for the U.S. government to protect potential human rights violations when the law goes into effect.

Furthermore, the student governing body at the University of Arizona, passed an anti-SB1070 resolution, opposing the immigration law. The laws have already had an impact on the future student population at the University of Arizona, according to the university’s President, Robert Shelton. In a letter sent via email to the entire campus, President Shelton stated that numerous out-of-state students considering attending the University of Arizona have changed their plans and will be attending universities in other states.

As you can tell, the climate in Arizona is full of tension regarding these laws and supporters and critics alike find fundamental reasons for their beliefs. Comprehensive immigration reform has been proposed as a next contentious yet essential

step in dealing with the immigration issues and securing the U.S. borders (that includes the U.S.-Canada border too). But even that is a battle; comprehensive immigration reform failed to pass in Congress during President George W. Bush’s second term in office.

One thing is for certain--the eventful year of 2010 in Arizona has just begun.



### Write an article for *The Voice Newsletter*

We are looking for NBGSA members to contribute to our quarterly newsletter by writing about issues that relate to black graduate students and their community. Email articles to [president@nbgsa.org](mailto:president@nbgsa.org). Articles are not automatically accepted. They will be reviewed.

# Get Involved!

## Represent Your State! Become a State Representative

State Representatives are non-constitutionally designated positions, who primarily assist Regional Representatives in planning the regional conference and informing students and institutions about NBGSA.

Contact **Dominique Hill** at [vpmembership@nbgsa.org](mailto:vpmembership@nbgsa.org) to apply.

## Call for Abstracts

*Call and Response: The Scholarly Journal of the National Black Graduate Student Association* solicits research of publishable quality that addresses areas of intellectual or social concern to communities and persons of African descent for Volume 3. Potential contributors should send an abstract of 500-750 word. Please send abstracts for articles and book reviews to [callandresponse@nbgsa.org](mailto:callandresponse@nbgsa.org).

## Coming Soon...

### The Dr. Todd C. Shaw Mentoring Project

Our mentoring initiative intends to connect NBGSA members with professionals and/ or graduate students who will support their mentees through the graduate school process.

For more information or to participate, contact **Tina L. Ligon** at [mentor@nbgsa.org](mailto:mentor@nbgsa.org)

## Become an Academic Representatives

Academic Representatives are non-constitutionally designated positions, which enhance discipline-related membership development and encourage organizational commitment by establishing important leadership opportunities. In addition, Academic Representatives work with the Vice President for Administrative Affairs with reviewing abstracts and abstracts.

Contact **Dhymsey Owens** at [vpadmin@nbgsa.org](mailto:vpadmin@nbgsa.org) to apply.

## Advertise with NBGSA

Now Offering Advertisement Space in our Quarterly Newsletter, Conference Program, and Website. Contact the Director of Corporate and Institutional Development at **(800) 471-4102 x106** or [development@nbgsa.org](mailto:development@nbgsa.org)



**Save the Date!**

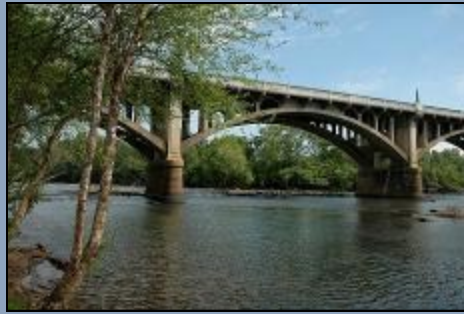
*Transforming Roads Ahead*

**23rd Annual National Black Graduate Student Conference**

**Radisson Hotel Columbia and Conference Center**

**Columbia, South Carolina**

**March 9-13, 2011**



**Call for Proposals**

We invite you to join us as we commit to the future, reflect on change, produce groundbreaking scholarship, and uplift our communities. The 2010-2011 NBGSA Conference Committee is seeking proposals for paper, poster, panel, and workshop presentations for NBGSC 2011.

**Deadline November 15, 2010**

For Additional Information, Contact  
Dhymsey Owens at [vpadmin@nbgssa.org](mailto:vpadmin@nbgssa.org)



# NBGSA Trivia

1. NBGSA was founded at what university?
  - a. Mississippi State
  - b. Jackson State
  - c. University of Michigan
  - d. North Carolina Central University
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were the only two people to serve two terms as national president.
  
3. True/False: Only people of African descent born in the United States are allowed to become full members of NBGSA.
  
4. Former Vice President of Administrative Affairs, \_\_\_\_\_ has a Memorial Scholarship named after him.
  
5. The name of the scholarly journal that NBGSA publishes is \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. Who was the first National President?
  - a. Michael Powell
  - b. Todd C. Shaw
  - c. Ivan Turnipseed
  - d. Robert M. Sellers
  
7. The 2012 National Conference will be held in what region?
  - a. South Central
  - b. North Central
  - c. Northeast
  - d. West
  
8. True/False: NBGSC came before NBGSA
  
9. True/False: The National Conference has never been held on a college campus.
  
10. The National Office has been housed at what schools?
  - a. Mississippi State, Jackson State, North Carolina Central, and Howard
  - b. Mississippi State, University of Michigan, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Howard
  - c. Jackson State, Florida A & M, University of Maryland, and Howard
  - d. North Carolina Central, University of South Carolina, University of Michigan, and Howard



1. C. University of Michigan
2. Tamara Bertrand and Nameka R. Bates
3. False: Anyone who supports the mission of NBGSA can become a member
4. Willie D. Lawson, Jr
5. Call & Response: The Scholarly Journal of the National Black Graduate Student Association
6. B. Todd C. Shaw
7. C. Northeast
8. True:
9. False:
10. A.

# 2009-2010 NBGSA Leadership in Their Early Years



Tina L. Ligon



Dhymsey Owens



Dominique Harrison



Thomandra Sam



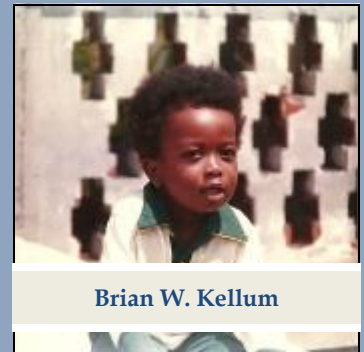
Joe Johnson



Aysha Foster



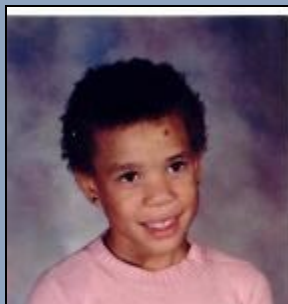
Ge'Andra Johnson



Brian W. Kellum



Amber Wilburn



Nameka R. Bates



Lecia Gresham



Dominique C. Hill



Rowena P. Campbell



Tarryn McGhie

# The Back Page



Antonio J. White  
20th NBGSA President

On a personal level, the NBGSA has allowed me the opportunity to connect and engage with other black graduate students in a much larger forum than my respective graduate school. It has given me a space to hone my academic, professional, and leadership skills. Throughout my journey as a member, conference fellow, northeast regional representative, and now president, I've learned that my membership in this organization is much more about contributing to something bigger than myself than merely how I can profit.

Granted, there are so many personal benefits the NBGSA provides for graduate students all over the nation. We share research with one another, we party with one another, and we obtain job leads through high quality networking. However, how great is it to be a part of a collective where we are able to impact more people than ourselves? Every chance we get to network with other scholars, create programs with our local graduate

student associations, present research at national and regional conferences, and engage in informal dialogue with peers, we are adding to a larger movement. We are actively participating in the process of change at both the personal *and* community level. At that very moment, our scholarship, our conference involvement, and our presence at graduate socials are no longer only our own, but a part of that larger community.

Throughout the course of history, many black scholars have been influential not only in furthering the cause of social justice, but also in strengthening the fabric of our country and world. We are just as important now as they were then. It is my sincere hope that you will join us in taking ownership of this organization as we continue to work together towards improving the status of blacks in higher education. NBGSA belongs to you, and NBGSA needs you. Share your voice, raise your voice, and become a part of the "The Voice!"

~Antonio White, 2010-2011 President

## 2010 Regional Conference Information

### **South Central Regional**

September 30-October 1, 2010  
Mississippi State University

### **North Central Regional**

*Engagement, Consciousness and Pride: Leadership in the  
Pan African Community*  
October 2010

### **Southeast Regional**

October 2010  
Clark Atlanta University