



KEY EVENTS 'IN YOUR AREA

Central Arkansas & Beyond!

Mentoring Young Men - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Continues To Excel

by Kenya L. Eddings

On Saturday, April 27, 2024 the brothers of the Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted its 3rd annual Alpha Excel Conference. Held on the campus of Philander Smith University, nearly 80 young men age spent the day being exposed to 2 of the fraternity's national initiatives - Project Alpha and Go To High School Go To College initiatives.

According to the national website, Project Alpha was created in partnership with the March of Dimes and focuses on "...combating ignorance and fear with factual information; changing attitudes by providing motivation toward positive changes in sexual behavior; and helping young men develop strong self-esteem". Their 'Go to High School Go to College' initiative was designed to, "...encourage advancement to higher education, encourage academic achievement, and build self-esteem".

Dr. Stanley Ellis, Mr. Marcus Montgomery, and Dr. Morris Kelley, all members of the chapter were among the presenters examining important topics like, 'The Art of the Handshake', 'The Importance of Eye Contact', and 'Sexual Responsibility/Sexual Health'. Chapter president, Carl Hayes explained that it was indeed salient for the chapter to not only talk about helping and mentoring young, black men but also put words into action by serving as role models. Self-esteem and mental health were also covered. "The importance of mental health is huge in our society now. Additionally, we feel it's important for these young men to be exposed to the topics we're covering today so that they begin to build their 'tool kits' for life," said Hayes.



Brandon Smith helps young man with problem solving activity

Participants ranged in age from 12 - 18 and came from as far as Hot Springs to participate in the day-long workshop.

Chartered in 1926, the Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha has celebrated 98 years of service to central Arkansas. In addition to the Alpha Excel program, the fraternity hosts programming like its highly revered, annual debutante ball. Learn more about the chapter, by visiting <https://www.pilambda1906.org/>.

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the day.