

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
AKArama Foundation, Inc.
Target I – Educational Enrichment/ ASCEND
Executive Committee Meeting – May 7, 2016
Chairman – Erica E. Ford

The ASCEND Committee has met the last Sunday of each month (January-April). Here is a summary of what we have done:

- January we focused on information technology careers, college applications, scholarships to apply for, and made Valentine's day cards for our service project. The cards were to be distributed to residents of Trinity Oaks. Total Participants: 12 Members, 6 students, 2 parents
- February we focused on financial aid, time management in college, presentation and public speaking skills. We also did a UN Module with help from a few of the Members from Beta Chapter. We also got them started on their semester project (SMART Camp) which focuses on building skills in the science and math related fields. We as a committee chose to have the student build model homes utilizing popsicle sticks. They completed the first step, which was drawing the blue prints. The students also completed their first cultural outing which involved watching two students participate in a dance recital put on by the Hyde Park Dance Group. Total Participants: 10 Members, 7 Students, 1 parent
- March we hosted an HBCU Panel to focus on the different schools and help students gain a different perspective and understand their importance. The students and their parents really enjoyed this segment and asked a lot of questions. We also showed the students what to wear and what not to wear to interviews and other professional settings. Total participants: 9 Members, 7 students and 3 parents
- April we had help from Beta Chapter with another UN Module. For our service project we made homemade cleaning supplies to donate to Family Strengthening for one of their initiatives. We also talked about transitioning from HS to college and the big points to focus on. The students got started making the popsicle houses. Total participants: 10 Members, 7 students and 1 parent.

In May and June the students will complete their SMART Camp prep project. Our final outing will involve a trip to the DuSable Museum on May 15th. When we meet with the students at the end of May, we will discuss proper etiquette for an interview and how to go about finding different summer internships.

Our final session with the students will be in June. This will be a farewell celebration and the students will be expected to present their model homes. We will provide the seniors with a special gift and complete one final community service project.

We have had a consistent number of students that have participated throughout the year and will continue to participate until June. Two of the students are graduating seniors and the rest of the students are freshman-sophomores that will return in the fall. New students will also be joining the program.

As a committee we are also working on creating marketing materials that will be distributed to prospective students over the summer to garner interest in our program. Some Members have connections to different high schools and we will be distributing materials there as well. Our next committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 18th at the Center from 6-7:30pm

Sisterly Submitted,
Erica E. Ford, Chairman