

Organizations

Fraternities

[Alpha Phi Alpha \(Alpha Theta\)](#)

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

[Iota Phi Theta](#)

As Iota Phi Theta continues to grow and strengthen, so will its commitment to make meaningful contributions to society in general, with particular emphasis in the African-American community. Throughout America, Iota Phi Theta has come to represent excellence in all areas. The Fraternity is, and shall forever remain dedicated to its founders' vision of "Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One!"

[Kappa Alpha Psi](#)

Kappa Alpha Psi was founded on the campus of Indiana University on January 5, 1911. The Fraternity's fundamental purpose is achievement. Membership is a solemn commitment. To this Fraternity, the maker of the commitment becomes synonymous with the commitment itself. Membership in Kappa Alpha Psi is a lifelong dedication to the ideas and lofty purposes of Kappa Alpha Psi, which considers for membership only those aspirants whose personal, social and academic qualifications are acceptable to both the College and Fraternity. Expectations concerning maturity and dedication are made upon new members and established members alike.

[Omega Psi Phi](#)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is a professional organization of educated men with similar ideas and like attainments. The fraternity's founders chose Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift as the cardinal principles that every prospective candidate must possess. Our fraternity's motto is "Friendship Is Essential To The Soul." Since the birth of the organization, Omega has and will continue to impact the world in every profession and all walks of life.

[Phi Beta Sigma](#)

"Culture For Service and Service For Humanity"

Sororities

[Alpha Kappa Alpha](#)

The small group of women who organized the Sorority was conscious of a privileged position as college-trained women of color, just one generation removed from slavery. They were resolute that their college experiences should be as meaningful and productive as possible. Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded to apply that determination; however, its influence extends beyond campus quads and student interest. It has a legacy of service that deepens, rather than ends, with college graduation. The goals of its program activities center on significant issues in families, communities, government halls and world assembly chambers. Its efforts constitute a priceless part of the global experience in the 21st century. Since its founding over a century ago, Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission has been to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind."

[Delta Sigma Theta](#)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the Sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea. The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

[Sigma Gamma Rho](#)

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's aim is to enhance the quality of life within the community. Public service, leadership development and education of youth are the hallmark of the organization's programs and activities. Sigma Gamma Rho addresses concerns that impact society educationally, civically, and economically.

[Zeta Phi Beta](#)

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded on the simple belief that sorority elitism and socializing should not overshadow the real mission for progressive organizations - to address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty, and health concerns of the day. Founded January 16, 1920, Zeta began as an idea conceived by five coeds at Howard University in Washington D.C.: Arizona Cleaver, Myrtle Tyler, Viola Tyler, Fannie Pettie and Pearl Neal. These five women, also known as our Five Pearls, dared to depart from the traditional coalitions for black women and sought to establish a new organization predicated on the precepts of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love and Finer Womanhood. It was the ideal of the Founders that the Sorority would reach college women in all parts of the country who were sorority minded and desired to follow the founding principles of the organization. Founder Viola Tyler was oft quoted to say "[In the ideal collegiate situation] there is a Zeta in a girl regardless of race, creed, or color, who has high standards and principles, a good scholarly average and an active interest in all things that she undertakes to accomplish."

University Organizations

[African American Council](#)

The mission of the African American Council (AAC) is to promote and improve the quality of life of African American faculty, staff and students at the University of Iowa. The African American Council is poised to address the changing needs and concerns of African Americans on campus. To this end, through service and action, the AAC promotes awareness of important African American concerns and contributions to the University, while advancing the University's commitment to diversity and academic excellence.

[Afro American Cultural Center](#)

Known as the Afro House, this space provides a supportive and inclusive environment and programs that empower students, faculty, staff and community members to excel in their endeavors, stretch themselves to experience diversity, engage in activism, make positive choices, and serve their communities. The Afro American Cultural Center was established in 1968 to create a space for Black students from different cultural backgrounds to adjust to University life. In preserving Black culture, the center provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to share their cultural knowledge and educate the entire community.

[Black Student Union](#)

The Black Student Union is where students dedicated to unifying and uplifting our community members and promoting a constructive interest in the rich and diverse culture of the African and African-American community at the University of Iowa can contribute and build togetherness.

African American Studies Student Association

The African American Studies Student Association aims to promote knowledge about people of African descent by sponsoring programs on various topics. Any University of Iowa student interested in African American studies is eligible to become a member.

[Black Graduate and Professional Students](#)

The purpose of BGAPS is to create an academic and social environment conducive for successful completion of Graduate and Professional programs at the University of Iowa. Our goals include: playing a supportive role in helping to increase minority enrollment and retention in Graduate and Professional programs, and developing academic and social activities that will enhance Black Graduate and Professional students' quality of life while in Iowa. AAS works closely with the Black Graduate and Professional Students Association (BGAPS). *Graduate Student Mentoring and Advising*: African American Studies sponsors several intellectual and social gatherings for graduate students across disciplines. During these events, students connect with others interested in African American studies and receive advice about becoming faculty members and being productive members of the academic profession.

[Center for Diversity and Enrichment](#)

The mission of the Center for Diversity & Enrichment is to bring to life the UI's commitment to create a diverse and welcoming climate with a critical mass of students, staff and faculty from communities underrepresented in higher education. This office provides the primary leadership and coordination for outreach and service to underserved and minority communities for pre-college student development and recruitment, and for developing and sustaining programs and activities that support the ability of minority and underserved students from diverse backgrounds to increase their skills to thrive and succeed at The University of Iowa.

[The Hubbard Group](#)

As a group of men affiliated with the University of Iowa as faculty, staff, and students, we seek to follow the legacy of Phillip G. Hubbard, the first tenured African American professor at the University of Iowa. Our goal is to offer programming, events, and services that foster a more inclusive community of learning, support, retention and success among African American men at The University of Iowa, as well as provide educational resources to the University and Iowa City community about the various attitudes and performances that men of African descent embody.

[SROP/McNair Program](#)

The SROP/McNair Scholars Program is for you if you are interested in a challenging research experience. The combined program strives to prepare young investigators to achieve their goals of pursuing graduate work and of becoming tomorrow's academic leaders. Students receive first-hand exposure to the graduate school experience and to faculty life by being paired with a faculty mentor whose work is closely related to your academic interests and career goals. Students can choose among opportunities in biological sciences, engineering, humanities, mathematics, physical sciences, or social sciences and will work with your faculty mentor either on an individual basis or as part of a research team. The organization also offers the CIC/Iowa Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and the UI McNair Scholars Program.

[Upward Bound](#)

Upward Bound is a program for high school students who are considering continuing their education after graduation. Students in upward bound learn how to study smart and manage time wisely; prepare, be admitted, and succeed in college; be introduced to new technology; get a head start on next year's classes; get to know what college life is like by spending time in the summer at the UI; and find out more about yourself, your interests, and your potential.

Community Organizations

[African American Museum of Iowa](#)

The museum works to preserve, publicize, and educate the public on the African American heritage and culture of Iowa. The heritage of African Americans in Iowa was in danger of being lost without major efforts to preserve it. In 1994, a small group from Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids began the project in celebration of Black History Month. The Heritage Center is located at 519 E 9th Street in Davenport, IA. (563) 326-7652

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County](#)

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors that have a measurable impact on youth. Our vision is to match a Big to every child who needs and wants one. We are able to accomplish this mission through three specific programs. Community-based mentoring, School Buddy matches and the Academic Mentoring Program are the three areas we believe are making a BIG difference in Johnson County. Learn more about how to Enroll Your Child. Looking to Volunteer? The programs of BBBS of Johnson County have proven not only valuable with over 800 matches, but also effective. In addition, while volunteers agree to a one-year commitment, the average length of a match is more than two years. In fact, many of the relationships continue into the children's adult lives. Volunteers report the following results for children matched at least six months: improvement in self-

confidence, improved attitude toward school; reduced risk of substance abuse; and increased school attendance.

[Children of Promise](#)

Children of Promise, Inc., was established to provide financial assistance for programs to aid needy children in ministries of the Church of God outside the United States. The organization desires to have a program in every developing country where the Church of God has functioning congregations. Children of Promise collaborates with Global Missions and other divisions of Church of God Ministries, Inc., as it carries out its ministry to children around the world.

[U of I and Iowa City NAACP](#)

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. The Des Moines Branch NAACP was founded in 1915. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

[United Action for Youth](#)

UAY nurtures the potential of all youth to create, grow, and lead. Their vision is one in which young people and adults work together in partnership to create a safe and healthy community. They value respect, excellence, integrity, collaboration, and stewardship.

Churches

[Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Iowa City](#)

The mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. At every level of the connection, the A.M.E. Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the A.M.E. Church evolved: that is, to seek out and save the lost, and serve the needy through a continuing program of preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, cheering the fallen, providing jobs for the jobless, administering to the needs of those in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes and mental institutions, senior citizens' homes; caring for the sick, the shut-in, the mentally and socially disturbed, and encouraging thrift and economic advancement.

[New Creations International Church](#)

What a privilege it is for us to welcome you to New Creations International Church.

We are a Non-denominational Bible teaching, Bible preaching, Bible believing church, where Jesus is Lord.

Pastor Smith is the Senior Pastor and Founder of New Creations International Church. NCIC was birthed in Lafayette, IN on November 23, 2003. The ministry grew and the Lord moved the ministry to Iowa City, IA in 2006 where we faithfully serve God and the community. Our immediate family consists of five boys and three girls.

Both Pastor Smith and Lady Gwen received their formal Christian education from Life Christian University.

NCIC is covered by the International Network of Affiliated Ministries (INAM) lead by Bishop E.L. Warren, headquartered in Quincy.

[Parkview Church, Iowa City and North Liberty](#)

Provides a safe, nurturing atmosphere where youth are able to learn and grow while participating in healthy, fun, Christ-centered activities. The vision of a Christ-centered youth center developed through years devoted to youth through the Upper Room ministry of Parkview Evangelical Free Church. Upper Room saw the need to counter pressures such as drugs, gangs and teenage pregnancy. In attempt to better serve the increasing number of youth attending Upper Room, The Spot was created. Located in close proximity to the majority of its attendees, The Spot offers a message of hope and invites today's high-risk youth to discover new and abundant life.

[Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids](#)

To share the gospel of Jesus Christ to multi ethnic, diverse, families of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and adjacent cities. Our calling, compassion, and commission is to: "Imparting the Word and Impact the World" Luke 4: 18, 19

State Organizations

[Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa](#) (OCBI)

The Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans exists to promote the interests of African-Americans in the State of Iowa and in doing so, fosters the well-being of the State's entire citizenry.

[The State Data Center of Iowa and the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans in Iowa: 2010](#)

To recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

[Iowa Civil Rights Commission](#)

The mission of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission is enforcing civil rights through compliance, mediation, advocacy, and education as we support safe, just, and inclusive communities. The Commission's major duty is to enforce state and federal statutes that prohibit discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, education and credit by investigating and litigating civil rights complaints. In addition, the Commission provides conflict resolution services and mediation for civil rights matters. The Commission actively educates the public to prevent discrimination, biased conduct and stereotypes.

[Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans \(ICSAA\)](#)

The Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans (ICSAA) is a state agency that exists to address the needs and concerns of Iowa's African-American citizens. Since it was established by the Iowa Legislature in 1989, the ICSAA has been a division of the Department of Human Rights and serves as an advocate for African-Americans in Iowa. The ICSAA is composed of nine citizens representing different regions of the state. Each is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. The director, who administers the Division on the Status of African-Americans within the Department of Human Rights, is also a gubernatorial appointee and confirmed by the Senate. The Director of the Department of Human Rights serves ex officio.

[The Sentencing Project](#)

The Sentencing Project is a national organization working for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice, and alternatives to incarceration. The Sentencing Project was founded in 1986 to provide defense lawyers with sentencing advocacy training and to reduce the reliance on incarceration. Since that time, The Sentencing Project has become a leader in the effort to bring national attention to disturbing trends and inequities in the criminal justice system with a successful formula that includes the publication of groundbreaking research, aggressive media campaigns and strategic advocacy for policy reform. The Sentencing Project is dedicated to changing the way Americans think about crime and punishment.