

## The Heart of ESP: An Extraordinary Service Program

Alpha Kappa Alpha responds to the contemporary needs of the Black community with comprehensive non-traditional programs. The ESP vision embraces a five-pronged program designed to excite, galvanize and ignite the passions of more than 180,000 members worldwide. The goal is to transfer this enthusiasm into a collective resolve to parlay members' talents, energy, and creativity to realize Alpha Kappa Alpha's enormous potential for empowerment, security, and progress.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLATFORM I</b> <b>NON-TRADITIONAL ENTREPRENEUR</b></p> <p>Women are seizing the reins of entrepreneurship because they realize that it is the key to economic survival. As they become more of the business landscape and their enterprises grow, women are coming face to face with the challenges of managing and expanding new ventures. To build a strong foundation for women in business, Alpha Kappa Alpha creates economic expertise, success in business, and power networking opportunities for the non-traditional entrepreneur.</p> <p>The ladies of Xi Sigma Omega Chapter support the national program for Non-traditional Entrepreneurs by creating a directory of businesses which we support. The directory will be available to both members of the sorority and the community at large. In the coming months we will partner with local and national organizations that promote entrepreneurship and create avenues to turn hobbies into viable businesses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLATFORM II</b> <b>ECONOMIC KEYS TO SUCCESS</b></p> <p>Xi Sigma Omega is proactively disseminating the Economic Keys To Success by organizing and implementing the following program events in 2007:</p> <p><b>Economic Smart Fair</b> Xi Sigma Omega implemented The Economic Smart Fair as an initiative to increase economic literacy in the greater Montgomery County community. Workshops were presented to supply community members with options for financial education, entrepreneurship, wealth building, and financial planning.</p> <p><b>The Youth Business Plan Competition</b> Xi Sigma Omega is implementing the Youth Business Plan Competition with three primary objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to educate students in the process of creating and evaluating new business ventures;</li> <li>2. to prepare students for opportunities in entrepreneurship sometime during their careers; and</li> <li>3. to motivate students to cultivate their creative ideas for the purpose of generating revenue.</li> </ol> <p><b>Earnings, Set, Potential: On Top Of The Game</b> Xi Sigma Omega has initiated an ongoing partnership with the young ladies of Sisters In Success (SIS) at Watkins Mill High School to provide an opportunity for the SIS members to learn the basics of entrepreneurship. Additionally, through this partnership, Xi Sigma Omega collaborates within each of the platforms identified to deliver additional workshops.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLATFORM III</b> <b>ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE BLACK FAMILY</b></p> <p>As part of our efforts to work effectively with Black families as well as improve their economic and social growth, we have provided the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adoption of a very large Black family consisting of 14 children and one adult. The family's children range in age from 3 to 17 years old.</li> <li>2. Xi Sigma Omega has a partnership with the Dorothy Day Women's Shelter. We provide monthly lunch visits that are rewarding to the residents and to our members. In addition, speakers from various organizations conduct workshops that share pertinent topics with the Dorothy Day ladies.</li> <li>3. We support common community goals with our partnership with the Montgomery County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. We had a very successful group build on April 7, 2007 by helping to build twelve town homes in Burtonsville, MD.</li> <li>4. We are planning to mentor young Black males and females at Shady Grove Middle school for the 2007-2008 school year.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLATFORM V**</b> <b>HEALTH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT &amp; ECONOMICS</b></p> <p>The mandate in this platform is to gain emotional empowerment, develop social support networks, and raise public awareness.</p> <p>We will endeavor to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. develop forums for understanding mental and emotional health and its relationship to physical health.</li> <li>2. develop activities that motivate and engage the community in emotionally, healthy behaviors.</li> <li>3. raise public awareness of the many physical and mental health issues and crises facing the Black community.</li> <li>4. create forums to share information on economic disparities contributing to mental and physical health issues in Black and low-income communities.</li> </ol> <p>Activities planned for 2007 include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revive the chapter walking group – May             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Every Soror Physically-Fit - ESP 1908 Centennial Walk</i> - Walk 1,908 mile in 18 months or exercise 19:08 minutes per day</li> <li>o Participate in the Race for the Cure</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Provide information on monthly/weekly health observances</li> <li>3. Provide health seminars for Dorothy Day Women's Shelter</li> <li>4. Offer health information/support to BOSS and SIS groups at Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD</li> </ol>

\*\*Platform IV is the Undergraduate Signature Program Platform and is inapplicable because Xi Sigma Omega Chapter is a Graduate Chapter.

Click the link for more information about the **ESP Platforms**: <http://www.aka1908.com/present/program/>