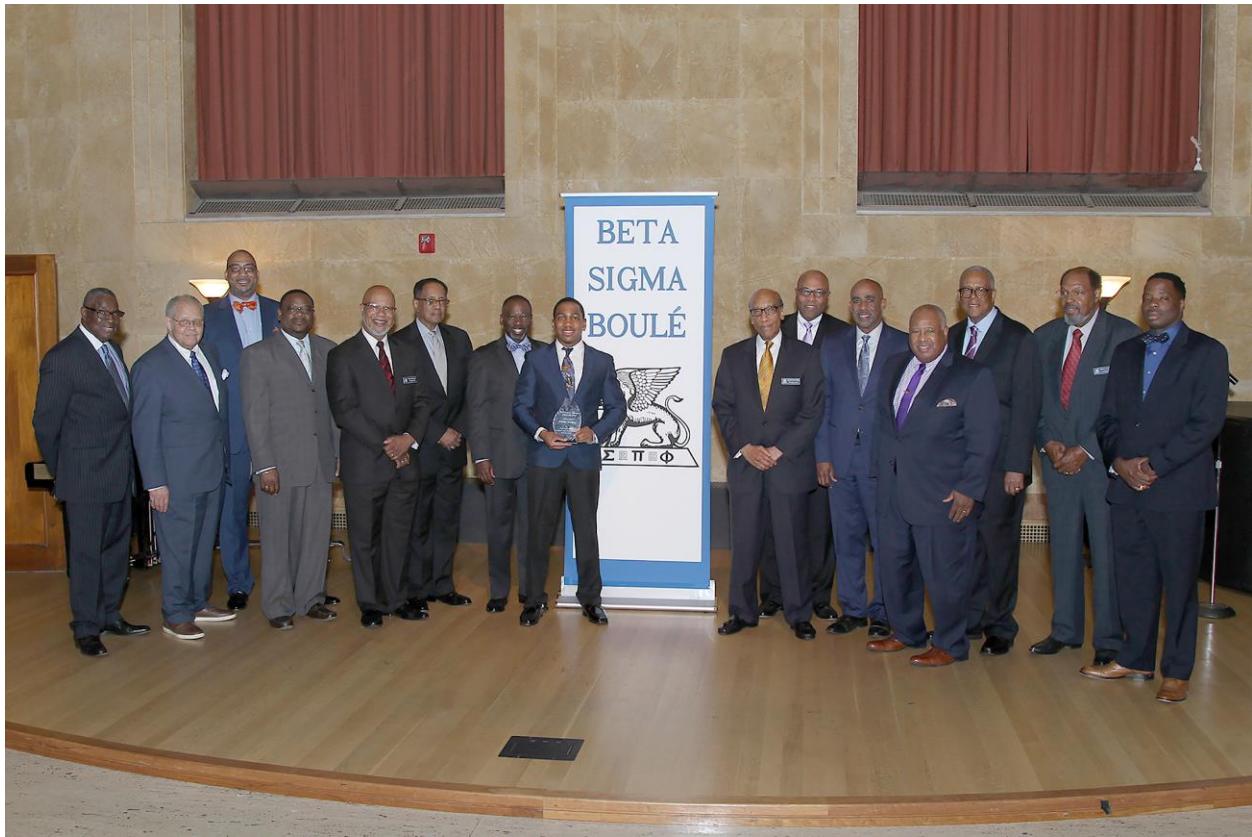


Beta Sigma Presents Annual Public Policy Program and Scholarship Awards



Archons David Williams, G. Bruce Cutting, Gregory Thomas, Calvin McFadden Sr., Frank Robinson, Legrand Hines Jr., Sire Archon Vincent Jackson, Boule Scholar Khadir Zachery, Archons H. Brooks Fitch, Frederick George, Michael Weekes, Henry Thomas III, Willie Hill, Jesse Lanier, V. Van Johnson III

Beta Sigma Boule, Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted its eighth annual W.E.B. Du Bois Public Policy Program and scholarship awards on May 31, 2018. This event is a forum for community leaders and concerned citizens to dialogue about an important issue that is particularly significant and relevant to the black community.

The topic for this year's program focused on public health and was facilitated by Beta Sigma's Archon Frank Robinson, vice president at Baystate Health. Archon Robinson addressed the "Equality, Equity, and Reality" of healthcare and provided strategies for changing healthcare and racial narratives supported by institutional racism. In proposing how to change the healthcare narrative in disadvantaged and underserved communities, Archon Robinson highlighted the masterful philosophies of the late Archon W.E.B. Du Bois on liberation struggles and the game-changing scholarship on health inequities by the late Archon Bill Darity of Beta Sigma, who was professor emeritus of public health and founding dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Archon Robinson's strategies posited on: a) leveraging agencies to move healthcare from a social problem to a political problem through consumer advocacy, access to health statistics, and epidemiological findings; b) emphasizing the importance of "being heard" in communities of color; and c) changing the odds and conditions by addressing structural impediments and zip code features that reduce the effect of institutional racism on healthcare outcomes.

Beta Sigma also awarded over \$14,000 in scholarships during the public policy program. Khadir Zachery, a graduate of SABIS International Charter School (Springfield), was accepted into the Boule Scholars Program and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to assist him in pursuing his engineering degree at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA. Kenny Cesar, a graduate of Pope Francis High School (Chicopee), was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to support him as he pursues a biology degree at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT. Both Mr. Zachery and Mr. Kenny were named Howard L. Edmonds Scholars – named in honor of the late Howard L. Edmonds who was a charter member of Beta Sigma and a prominent educator in the Springfield public school system. A \$500 book scholarship was awarded to Malcolm Ealy, a graduate of Springfield Central High School, who plans to study computer science.