

“There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into an abyss of injustice where they experience the blackness of corroding despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.”

Letter from Birmingham City Jail
April 16th, 1963



Welcome to the 13th Annual Hope Breakfast sponsored by the Alpha Lambda Education Foundation (ALEF).

The ALEF was established in 1999 to foster educational achievement and high scholastic standards in the lives of young African American and Latino youth in Louisville Metro. We accomplish this mission by awarding collegiate scholarships to high school seniors who plan to continue their education at colleges and universities after graduation. Since our inception, the Foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships—more than **\$58,000 in the last six years**, including this year.

According to the most recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics, **25.4% of Black Americans** and **20.4% of Hispanic Americans** age 25 and older hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with **57.8% of Asian Americans** and **39.6% of White Americans**. These disparities underscore the ongoing need for intentional investment, mentorship, and support for young men of color as they pursue higher education.

Education is the cornerstone that stabilizes the house of accomplishment. We hope this monetary allotment will help set these young men on a path toward academic achievement and a lifetime of success. Thank you for joining us at our event and thank you for your continued support of the Hope Breakfast and the young men we are committed to uplifting.

Gerald

Reverend Gerald M. Joiner, Executive Director
Alpha Lambda Education Foundation

Alpha Lambda Education Foundation

History

The Alpha Lambda Education Foundation (ALEF) is a tax-exempt entity that was established by the brothers of the Alpha Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in the year 1999 to promote scholastic achievement and intellectual youth development. ALEF exists under the rules and guidelines of the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

Mission

The mission of the Alpha Lambda Education Foundation (ALEF) is to perpetuate high social and intellectual principles by providing scholarships and other educational benefits to African-American and Latino youth in the Louisville Metro community.



Alpha Lambda Education Foundation

Board of Directors



(From L to R) Cecil Brookins, Ron Jackson, Michael Crawford, Ed Goins, Jr., Gerald Joiner, Lathon Logan, Charles Piphus

The Alpha Lambda Education Foundation is pleased to announce that with your generous donations, we will allot scholarships to the following Louisville Metro students in 2026 & 2027:

Rahbe Abass
duPont Manual High School

Xzavier Barnes
W.E.B. DuBois Academy

Holden Becket
duPont Manual High School

ZaHir Covington
W.E.B. DuBois Academy

Braden O'Bannon
Atherton High School



Program

Breakfast

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony

Opening Remarks

Remarks from our title sponsor: Heaven-Hill

Musical Selection: Lift Every Voice and Sing

Featured Speakers:

Kadi'ah Malone

Dr. Brian Yearwood

Musical Selection: A Change is Gonna' Come

Dr. Samantha Betton

Rev. Darien Waite

Scholarship Presentations

Lyman T. Johnson & Frank L. Stanley, Sr. Award
Presentations

Closing Remarks: Gerald Joiner, ALEF Executive
Director

Benediction



Rev. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King and his brother, A.D. Williams King lead marchers during a rally in Louisville in March, 1967.

Caray Grace is the morning anchor on WLKY and the 2025 Kentucky Broadcaster's Association (KBA) News Anchor of the Year.

Before moving to the morning anchor desk, Caray led a series called Project CommUNITY where she told stories that impacted the black Community. She has conducted many high-profile interviews and hosted political debates.



This year, she launched a segment called “Ask Caray” where she explores Louisville Metro and beyond, answering viewer questions about quirky things in the community.

Caray grew up in middle Tennessee. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Memphis where she studied broadcast journalism and Spanish.

She is married to Greg Vann. They have three beautiful children, a daughter and twin boys. In her spare time, she teaches dance. She is also involved in the community, spending many weekends hosting and emceeing events for charitable organizations.

Caray is a March of Dimes board member and proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Kadi'ah Malone was born in Southern Indiana and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, where she experienced an early exposure to community health inequities which sparked a lasting commitment to medicine. Now a sophomore at the University of Louisville, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and a certificate in Peace, Conflict, and Transformation Studies—an academic foundation that reflects her belief that healing extends beyond the clinic and into systems, policy, and community advocacy.



A dedicated scholar and campus leader, Kadi'ah is a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar, Woodford R. Porter Scholar, and Honors Scholar. She is deeply committed to mentorship and educational equity, serving as a General Manager for College Mentors for Kids and providing academic accessibility support as a Supplementary Disability Resource Center Note Taker. Clinically, she works as a Student Healthcare Assistant for Norton Healthcare while gaining additional medical exposure through Porter Scholars in Medicine and shadowing experiences in pediatrics, family medicine, and interventional radiology.

In Spring 2025, Kadi'ah was selected for the University of Louisville's International Service-Learning Program in Trinidad & Tobago, where she studied universal healthcare systems and conducted community health screenings. In the coming years, she intends to continue exploring global healthcare systems, community-based medicine, and the intersection of policy and clinical practice. Her long-term goal is to become a family medicine physician who advocates for underserved communities through compassionate care, culturally responsive practice, and systemic change.

Dr. Brian Yearwood was named superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools in May 2025 with his tenure starting on July 1, 2025.

Yearwood was born in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago to parents who were both educators. Seeking a brighter future, he moved to the United States at age 17 and was recruited to the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) on a tennis scholarship. He earned an associate degree from NMMI before continuing his higher education journey at Texas Tech University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in geology and a teaching certificate in science, followed by a master's degree in educational administration, and ultimately, a doctorate in educational leadership and statistics.



From 2021 to 2024, Yearwood served as the superintendent of the fourth-largest school district in Missouri, Columbia Public Schools. Under his leadership, the district achieved milestones, including a 16-point increase in its state Annual Performance Report (APR) score, reaching an impressive 86.5 percent.

Yearwood spent the first 22 years of his professional career in four Texas school districts - Lubbock, Lamesa, Wharton, and Manor Independent School districts. He was a science teacher, tennis coach, assistant principal, and principal at the school level. At Manor, Yearwood was an assistant superintendent overseeing curriculum, instruction, human resources, and academics before becoming the district's chief operations officer. He left Manor to become superintendent in Columbia in 2021

Yearwood is married to his wife, Tina, a registered nurse, and the father of two adult children.

Dr. Samantha Betton is a seasoned academic executive with over two decades of progressive leadership experience in higher education. A visionary and equity-centered leader, she currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Simmons College of Kentucky, where she has spearheaded transformative institutional initiatives in curriculum innovation, accreditation, and student success.



Dr. Betton holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida, a Master of Arts in Computer Information and Resource Management from Webster University, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems from Savannah State University. Her academic preparation, combined with her leadership expertise, has positioned her as a thought leader in institutional effectiveness, strategic academic planning, and accreditation compliance. She has played a pivotal role in developing sustainable academic infrastructures, including Centers of Excellence, state-of-the-art computer labs, and guided pathways that strengthen student achievement and retention.

Her distinguished career also includes leadership roles at Georgia Military College and Edward Waters University, where she held academic and administrative appointments such as Academic Dean, Department Chair, and Program Coordinator in the Division of Computer Information Systems. Her strategic approach to academic leadership continues to expand access, improve completion rates, and elevate institutional performance standards across every area she leads.

Dr. Betton is an engaged member of several professional and civic organizations, including the Florida Office of Women in Higher Education, Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She is also a proud and devoted member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., where she has served with distinction in regional and international leadership capacities.

Reverend Darien A. Waite serves as the Senior Pastor of the Green Castle Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Born and raised in the south Chicagoland area of Chicago, Illinois, Rev. Waite accepted his call to ministry at age 19 while serving as an intern at University Church Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Before coming to Green Castle, Rev. Waite served in a broad spectrum of churches dedicated to the spiritual depth and social breath of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



In 2016, Rev. Waite graduated from Morehouse College magna cum laude, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Rev. Waite also holds a Master of Divinity degree from the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Morehouse College, Rev. Waite studied the intersection between public policy and the educational attainment gap as an Education Policy and Practice Scholar. Rev. Waite furthered his policy and education work as a University of California Davis Summer Poverty Research Engagement Scholar at the University of California Davis, where he studied poverty and inequality around charter school organizational structure and teacher efficiency.

Upon graduation from Mercer University, Rev. Waite served as the Assistant Pastor for Youth, College and Men's Ministry at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia under the leadership of Dr. Raphael Warnock, Ph. D.

Above all else, Rev. Waite's primary commitment is to his wife and ministry partner, the Reverend Chelsea D. Waite and their children, Briella and Ace.

Frank L. Stanley, Sr. Leadership Award

This award recognizes an AΦA brother who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service which contributed to the success of not only the Fraternity, but also, to the community and his chosen profession.



Bro. Michael Crawford

Frank Leslie Stanley, Sr. was born in Chicago, IL and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Central High School in 1925. He received his B.A. from Atlanta University in 1929 and began teaching English, first at Jackson State College, then later at Central High School from 1931-1933.

Stanley joined the staff of the Louisville Defender in 1933, becoming editor and general manager in 1936. He was also a civil rights activist; in 1950 he drafted Senate Resolution #53 which led to the integration of institutions of higher education in Kentucky.

He served as general president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. from 1955 to 1957. In 1960 he advocated for the creation of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

He was married to Vivian Clark Stanley and had two sons from a previous marriage, Frank, Jr. and Kenneth.



Lyman T. Johnson “Torchbearer” Award

This award recognizes a person in the Metro Louisville community who has demonstrated a willingness and ability to make significant contributions to the community through their time, actions, and dedication. The person selected for this award should serve as a role model for advocacy, leadership, determination, and compassion in his/her efforts to affect positive change in the lives of African Americans and Latinos in Metro Louisville.



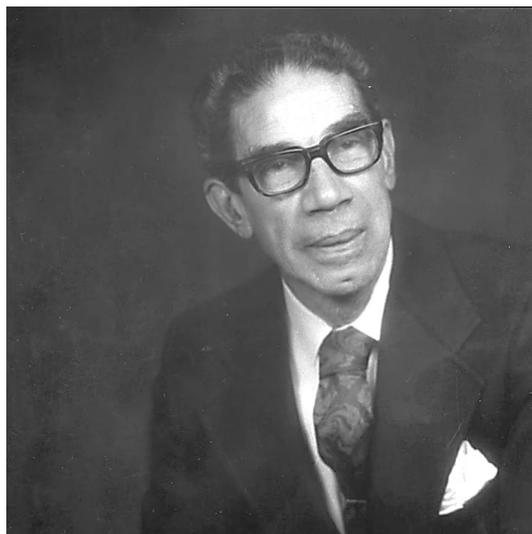
Mrs. Mattie Jones

Lyman Tefft Johnson was born in Columbia, Tennessee on June 12, 1906. He was the eighth of nine children born to Mary and Robert Johnson. In 1937, Lyman married Juanita Morrell; they were married for forty years and had two children, Yvonne, and Lyman M.

Johnson received a Bachelor's Degree in 1930 from Virginia Union University and a Master's Degree in History in 1931 from the University of Michigan. He moved to Louisville in the spring of 1933 and started teaching history at Central High School. He spent the next forty years as a public and parochial school educator.

In 1948 he fought successfully in federal court for admission to the all-white University of Kentucky and was also a plaintiff in the 1972-1975 federal court case that led to further integration of Louisville and Jefferson County Public Schools.

He died in Louisville, Kentucky on October 3, 1997.



Lift Every Voice and Sing*

J. Rosamond Johnson & James Weldon Johnson

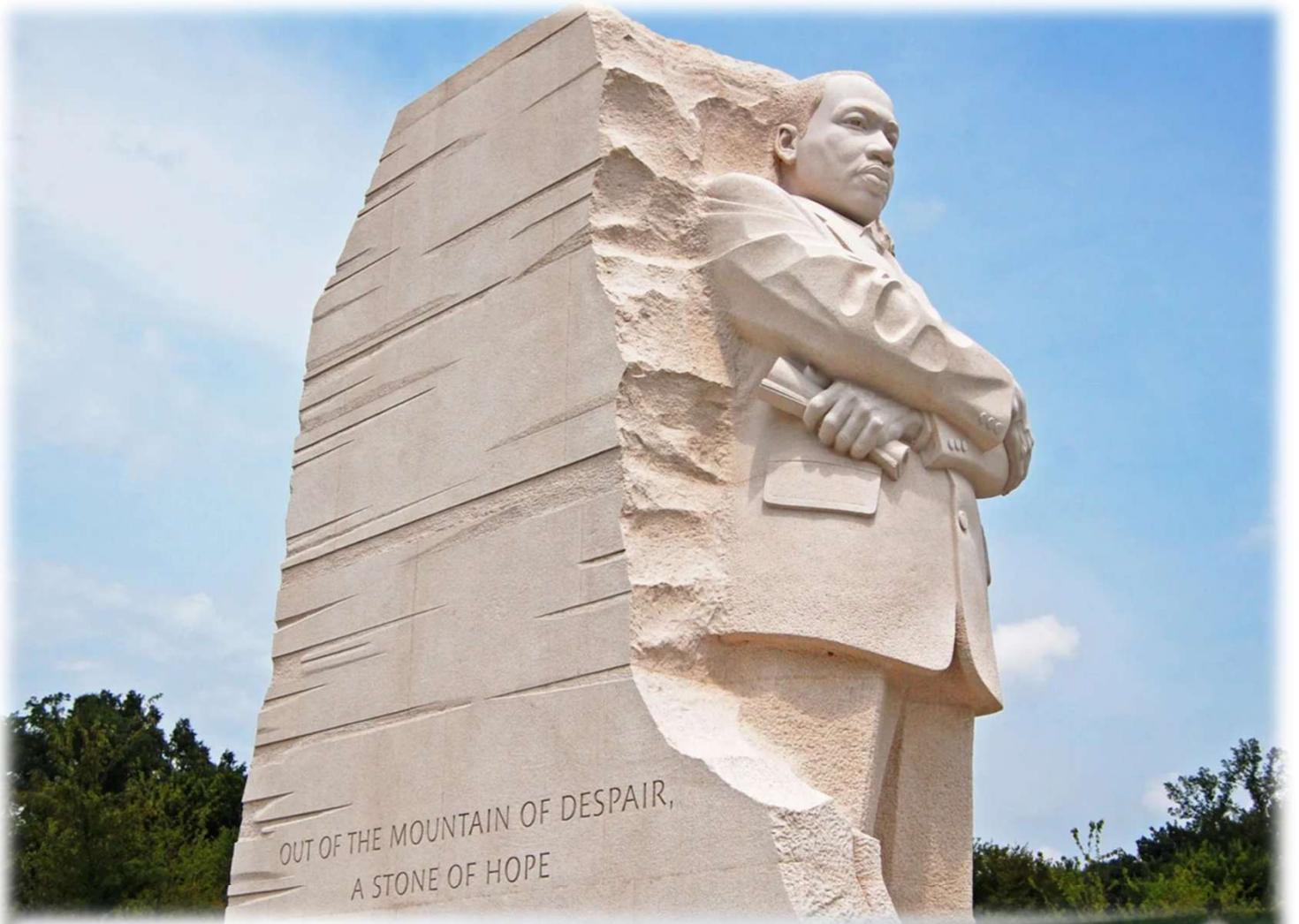
*Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring;
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.*

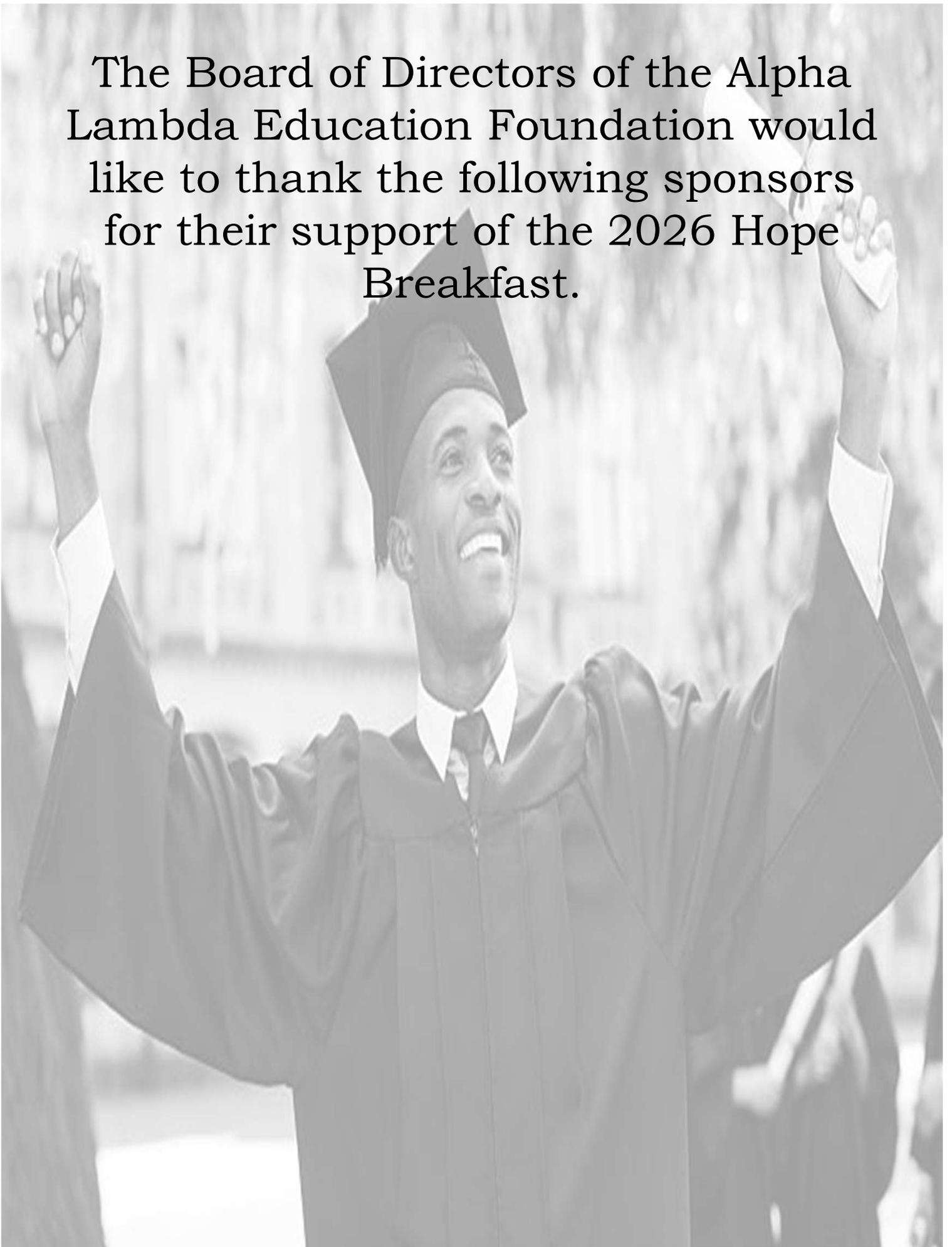
**First and third verses used for this event*







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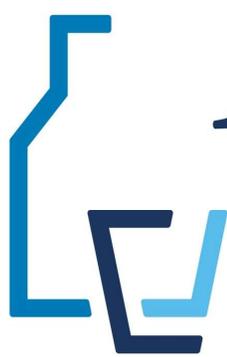
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At LG&E and KU, we believe strong communities are built through intentional investment and collaboration. Across Kentucky, we've supported more than 200 small, local, and diverse businesses, advanced efforts to close the education gap among students of color, and co-chaired the Mayor's Equity in Contracting and Procurement Task Force to promote inclusive opportunity.

While there is still work ahead, we are proud to keep building a stronger environment within our organization and the communities we serve.

Visit lge-ku.com/diversity to learn more.

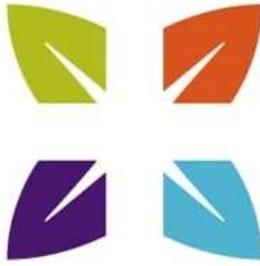




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