

AN HONORARY RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND THEIR 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS A DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS: African American Programs and Services (AAP&S) (originally called African American Student Affairs and Ethnic Services) was established in 1993 with the goal to provide programming and services to assist African and African American students, faculty, and staff to achieve academic success and educate the campus community and surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS: According to Safisha Hill, the first director of the department, "The position was mandated by the Commonwealth because institutions were not successfully recruiting, retaining, and graduating African American students. All departments were required to put out a quarterly report of what their area had done to reach out to retain African American Students", and

WHEREAS: After the department was mandated, many successful programs were created in the process. As well as bringing more historically, black fraternities and sororities on campus. Prior to this department being created, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated was the only fraternity from the Divine 9 on campus, and

WHEREAS: Black United Students (now known as Black Student Union) was also created - as well as Black Faculty and Staff. These were two instrumental organizations when the department first started that helped African American and African students further succeed at a predominantly white institution. AAP&S still plays a key role in the success of African American students. Since then, there have been 9 other organizations created that are focused towards this population of students, and

WHEREAS: NKU R.O.C.K.S (Responsibility, Opportunity, Community, Knowledge, and Success), the signature program of AAP&S, was designed to ease the academic, personal and social transition from high school to college through the Summer Institute and a year-long program, and

WHEREAS: The program's goals are to familiarize students with Northern Kentucky University and the resources available on campus. NKU R.O.C.K.S students are retained at a rate of 86%, and

WHEREAS: The rest of the black population has a retention rate of 61%. The program also pushes development and growth of strong academic, leadership, and professional skills. NKU R.O.C.K.S also creates networks for students amongst key constituents within the institution and assist in developing resourceful relationships, and

WHEREAS: NKU R.O.C.K.S is celebrating its 15-year anniversary this year. The program instills the idea of black excellence. Anthony Mize, department coordinator, says "Excellence is not a skill it is an attitude." This program is a key to African and African American success on our campus, and

WHEREAS: The department has several other key programs including, but not limited to: MLK Commemoration Week, Black History Month Events, UJIMA: A Night of Excellence, SHEREHE, and Welcome Black Week, and

WHEREAS: African American Programs and Services also has Affinity Groups serve as a space where students, faculty, and staff can support each other while navigating their educational, social, and career journey. These groups include: Black Male Leadership Initiative, Sister Circle Initiative, and Jami PRIDE, and


WHEREAS: The African American population has been increasing. Data shows that in 2007 this population of students was 648 students. In 2017, the population has grown to 1,000 students, and

WHEREAS: This department has tirelessly worked towards making our campus more inclusive. They have helped catalyze institutional and educational excellence, which is a key part to our 2020 inclusive excellence plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS THIRTIETH DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FORMALLY RECOGNIZES THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR DEDIDCATION AND COMMITMENT CONTRIBUTED TO NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY.

Signed: 

Sami K. Dada, President

Attest: 
Janiah Miller, Academic Affairs Committee Chair
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION