

phi beta sigma

phi beta sigma fraternity, Inc., an international organization of college and professional men, has as its principles brotherhood, scholarship and service. these principles are exhibited in the Fraternity motto “culture for service and service for humanity”. as one of the nine predominately african-american greek-lettered organizations, phi beta sigma has a membership of over 110,000 with over 650 chapters throughout the continental united states, switzerland and africa.

phi beta sigma consists of men dedicated to enhancing and promoting systematic fellowship, african american freedom, justice, equal rights, and service to america’s communities. being both a social and service organization, phi beta sigma has many programs. our three national programs are social action, and bigger and better business. in order to implement these and other programs, the fraternity works with organizations such as: the national pan hellenic council, the naacp, the national urban league, march of dimes birth defect foundation, and the national boys and girls clubs of america.

phi beta sigma fraternity is an organization that is concerned and involved in meeting the needs of the community.



phi beta sigma fraternity, inc. was founded at howard university in washington, d.c., january 9, 1914, by three young african-american male students. the founders, honorable a. langston taylor, honorable leonard f. morse, and honorable charles i. brown, wanted to organize a greek letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service.

the founders deeply wished to create an organization that viewed itself as “a part of” the general community rather than “apart from” the general community. they believed that each potential member should be judged by his own merits rather than his family background or affluence...without regard of race, nationality, skin tone or texture of hair. they wished and wanted their fraternity to exist as part of even a greater brotherhood which would be devoted to the “inclusive we” rather than the “exclusive we”.

from its inception, the founders also conceived phi beta sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, the founders of phi beta sigma held a deep conviction that they should return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come. this deep conviction was mirrored in the fraternity’s motto, “culture for service and service for humanity”.

today, eighty-seven years later, phi beta sigma has blossomed into an international organization of leaders. no longer a single entity, the fraternity has now established the beta sigma educational foundation, the phi beta sigma housing foundation, the phi beta sigma federal credit union, and the phi beta sigma charitable outreach foundation .