



**A**NTONIO  
JOHNSON  
2016

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF  
SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP,  
AND EXCELLENCE.



## MACY'S, INC. MULTICULTURAL AWARD

Macy's, Inc. is one of the nation's premier retailers with fiscal 2014 sales of \$28 billion with headquarters in New York and Cincinnati. The company operates about 770 stores under the names of Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Bloomingdale's Outlet, Macy's Backstage and Bluemercury, as well as the macys.com, bloomingdales.com and bluemercury.com websites. Since 2004, Macy's has provided the Antonio Johnson Macy's Multicultural Runner-Up Award, which is a \$10,000 academic scholarship.

## XAVIER UNIVERSITY MULTICULTURAL, GENDER & WOMEN'S CENTER

Xavier University  
Multicultural, Gender and Women's Center  
Taj Smith, Director  
Kyra Shahid, Associate Director  
Kelsey O'Neil, Assistant Director  
Joya Dillard, Program Coordinator  
Paisley Scarberry, Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator  
Pamela Sanders, Administrative Assistant  
Francis Billena, Student Office Assistant  
CJ Caponi, Student Office Assistant  
Bridget Reilly, Student Office Assistant  
Tayjia Weathers-Wright, Student Office Assistant

*Congratulations to the  
Black Student Association  
and the 40th Annual  
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Committee.*

# ANTONIO JOHNSON

*Reaching Back to  
Pass It Forward*

**Friday, April 8**

James & Caroline Duff Banquet Center  
Cintas Center

 XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
BLACK STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Antonio Johnson was born October 30, 1953, to Clarence and Roberta Johnson. He grew up in the Walnut Hills area and attended Roger Bacon High School.

Antonio began his academic career at Xavier University in June of 1971. While majoring in urban studies, he participated in the school band and was an active member of St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church. Johnson worked hard and dedicated his time to the Black Student Association as president, earning him the respect of the Xavier campus and the adjoining communities. He stressed the importance of minority independence, strength and development.

Johnson single-handedly organized and implemented activities for Black Awareness Month in February 1976. Unfortunately, he was unable to see the results of his hard work because he died on Feb. 8, 1976, at age 22. Johnson is remembered as a caring, compassionate, confident and articulate individual who was dedicated to the principles of social change and justice.

Each year, the Black Student Association keeps his memory alive through the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet. A scholarship is presented to a junior of African decent for his or her academic excellence, leadership, contribution to the Black Student Association and community service. Johnson's sister, Wanda Jones, said, "School was his life; it is a great honor to have a scholarship in his name."

## ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

2015	Victoria Dickerson	2002	Justin H. Hardy	1989	Lea C. Williams
2014	Chuma Nnawulezi	2001	Janelle E. Hines	1988	Linwood Riddick III
2013	Josephine Lando	2000	Ameerah S. Khalifa	1987	Jacqueline Nash
2012	Tiara Anderson	1999	Aric Hassel	1986	Margaret A. Gooden
2011	Jared F. Greene	1998	Natasha L. Collins	1985	Boaz Jackson
2010	Thailer Buari	1997	Damianne C. Scott		James Thomas
2009	Aaron Marble	1996	Kelie Roberts	1984	Julie I. Graves
2008	Lydia Powell	1995	Aarionne L. Farmer		Benetta Roper
2007	Keyona Gullett	1994	Shauna A. Starks	1983	Pamela D. Smith
2006	Corey Hawthorne	1993	Cherie L. Beal		Teresa L. West
2005	Shurrell Suttles	1992	Sharon Y. Richardson		
2004	Simone Harris	1991	Kenrick S. Richardson		
2003	Natasha Hamilton	1990	Jhules A. Clark		

## WELCOME

On the behalf of Black Student Association, I would like to warmly welcome every one of you to the 40th Annual Antonio Johnson Scholarship Gala.

Wow, forty years! Forty years of celebrating scholarship. Forty years of recognizing excellence. Forty years of honoring the legacy of the late Antonio Johnson. Since my freshman year here at Xavier, I have seen and done my best to be a part of the tradition that is tonight's scholarship gala. Each year, I find myself simply in awe at the amount history commemorated on this night.

I would like to thank every member of the Antonio Johnson Committee, as each and every one of you played an integral part in tonight's success.

I would also like to thank my executive board for your commitment to this organization. Working with you all over the past one, and some, two years has been sensational. Each of you has brought something special to this board, and I have truly enjoyed seeing you all grow into great leaders here on this campus.

It has truly been an honor serving as the President of this estimable organization. As we all take part in tonight's celebration, let us be reminded of this year's theme of "Because of them we can," for we are all the next Langston Hughes, the next Marcus Garvey, Florence Mills, and even the next Lena Horne. In closing, congratulations to all of tonight's honorees and thank you all for attending tonight's 40th (?) Antonio Johnson Scholarship Gala.

Sincerely,

Narrean Marsden  
2016 Black Student Association President



LEFT TO RIGHT: Audrey Calloway (advisor), Tommy Johnson, Narrean Marsden, Jeremiah Pennebaker, Tayjia Weathers-Wright, Caleb Mickler, Jai Taylor, Kaelen Doolan, Kayswana McCoy, Dr. Kyra Shahid (advisor)

## MASTER OF CEREMONY



### James Cosby

James Edwin Cosby III was born in Richmond, Virginia but currently resides in Dayton, Ohio. He received his undergraduate degree in communication at Denison University, and earned his Master's degree in College Counseling and Student Development at The Virginia Commonwealth University. He currently works in the Center for Faith and Justice at Xavier University and views it as a great way to be a positive impact in the college community. When offered the opportunity to be a part of this event a second time, he was humbled and honored to be able to a part of something so powerful for the black students at Xavier and to take part in honoring the legacy of Antonio Johnson. James also loves the Cleveland Browns and New York Knicks. With those teams, he did not choose well.

"Too bad they don't make band-aids for hurt feelings." – Cam Newton (or Jesus....not sure which)



### AJ Poetry Contest Winner: Mykia Lee

Mykia lee is a native of Buffalo, New York. She is a sophomore biology major with a double minor in chemistry and gender & diversity studies. She is a member of Xavier University's Black Student Association (BSA), Pre-Medical Society, Ladies with Emphasis on Achievement and Distinction (L.E.A.D.), and Ernest Just. She is also a student manager for Xavier Recreational Sports. After graduating from Xavier, Mykia plans on attending Medical School with the ultimate goal of becoming an Obstetrician in an underserved area.

Mykia's passion for poetry and spoken word started at a very young age. She has always enjoyed writing and feel like writing poetry is a way get away from formal and constructive writing. As a college student, poetry and spoken word became an outlet of expressing her feelings. Being an African American female, Mykia feels

that it is of grave importance to be aware of her history and to also not be afraid to speak on matters concerning her culture.

Mykia feels that words are the most powerful weapon that humans have. In order to bring consciousness to the many critical topics of society, spoken word is a great way to minimize culture gaps so that people, regardless of their background will have a mutual understanding of one another.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### Wilson Okello

Wilson Okello is a student of poetry, believing in the power of creative expression as a method to generate critical self-reflection, inspire confidence, and achieve agency. Son to the high expectations of an immigrant father and a mother whose love and support are the backbone of his pursuits, he desires to repay their stewardship by assisting others in the transformation of themselves and their communities. Born and raised Youngstown, Ohio, he attended Youngstown State University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Education. From there, he accepted a fellowship to attend the University of Rhode Island, where he earned his Master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies—College Student Personnel. Currently, Wilson is a doctoral student in the Student Affairs and Higher Education program at Miami University and founder of the Truth to Power Initiative. Featured twice on TEDx, Wilson, a sought after speaker, is recognized

for his expertise in agency and self-determination, providing people with the tools to attain an authority to live life on their own terms. Fundamental to his work is reinforcing the fact that one's story and voice in this world are both legitimate and relevant. Among his most recent accomplishments the University of Rhode Island recognized him with the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Rising Star Award, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) named him the 2013 IV East Outstanding New Professional. His deepest desire is to assist others in locating, cultivating, and living out their dreams.

## ENTERTAINMENT



### The Gregg Bacon Quartet

Sizzlin' Gregg Bacon, an Indianapolis native and jazz legend, is considered one of the most exciting and versatile musical entertainers. Gregg began performing jazz, blues and R&B as a teenager. Early in his career, Gregg studied saxophone with Nicholas Brightman at Butler University and was mentored by saxophonist Charles Tyler and singer James Bell. He can play the flute and perfected the technique of playing two and three saxophones at the same time.

Touring and performance highlights include: opening for Alex Bugnon, Najee, Aretha Franklin, Slave, The O'Jays, Babyface, and John Cougar Mellencamp (Payton Manning Children's Hospital Fundraiser); playing in Las Vegas; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's featured guest, New Years Eve 2004; Lucas Oil Stadium's grand opening; the Indianapolis Colts Superbowl Ring Party; The Indianapolis Jazz Fest; Indiana Black Expo and the Elkhart Black Expo.

Gregg is an active volunteer for the Clarian Health Breast Cancer Survivors and St. Vincent's Foundation, Breast Cancer Awareness. Gregg is a member and musician at Liberation A.M.E. Zion Church and was featured with its mass choir on a Christmas CD released in 2008.

His CDs include "Makin' Bacon", "Secret Place", "Jam Faktor", and "My New America".

# ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP GALA PROGRAM

James Cosby, Master of Ceremonies

Students Welcome .....	Sierra Shockley Antonio Johnson Committee Co-Chair
Fathers Welcome .....	Michael J. Graham, S.J. Xavier University President
Remembering Antonio Speech .....	Joseph Charlton Friend of Antonio Johnson Narreon Marsden Class of 2016, BSA President Mykia Lee Class of 2018
Invocation .....	Dr. Kyra Shahid BSA Advisor

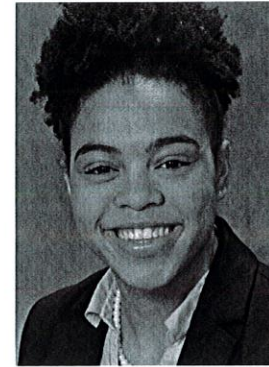
**DINNER**  
Music by The Gregg Bacon Quartet

Introduction of Keynote Speaker .....	James Cosby
Keynote Address .....	Wilson Okello

## AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Outstanding Freshman Award .....	Nia Mosley, Class of 2018
Outstanding Sophomore Award .....	Charla Henderson, Class of 2017
Outstanding Senior Award .....	Tommy Johnson, Class of 2018
Outstanding Service Award .....	Chloe Motley, Class of 2018
BSA Committee of the Year Award .....	Tayjia Weathers-Wright, Class of 2017
Antonio Johnson Leadership Award .....	Dr. Mary Stroud Professor, Department of Chemistry
Antonio Johnson Scholars .....	Audrey Calloway BSA Advisor
Faculty and Staff Award .....	Brianna Chenault, Class of 2017
Macy's Multicultural Runner-Up Award .....	Chioma Orizu 2015 Macy's Multicultural Scholarship Award Recipient Omari Aarons Director of Leadership Education and Stores Loyalty Learning and Development, Macy's Inc.
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award .....	Victoria Dickerson 2015 Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award Recipient Dr. Taj Smith Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion
Closing Acknowledgements .....	Diamond Brown Antonio Johnson Committee Co-Chair
Benediction .....	Dr. Adam Clark Professor, Department of Theology

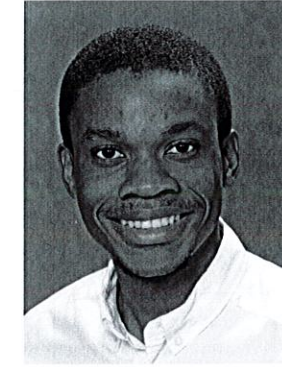
# ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS



## Brianna Gladney

Brianna Gladney is a junior at Xavier University with a double major in Sport Management and Communication Studies. Born September 14, 1995, Brianna is a well-traveled student due to the fact she was born into a military family. In her earlier years, she moved at least 11 times, and attended three different high schools, but she claims San Antonio, Texas as her home. Moving so far away, Brianna Gladney came to Xavier University to pursue basketball. After two years of playing

for the Women's Basketball team here at Xavier, she tore her ACL and focused more on academics, achieving a 3.315 GPA at the start of her junior year. She took on leadership roles around campus as a Smooth Transition Mentor for 2 years, and she is on the Executive Board for L.E.A.D. (Ladies with an Emphasis on Achievement and Distinction) as the Director of Programming and Special Events.



## Ebube IHEME

Born and Raised in the city of Lagos, Nigeria, Ebube IHEME decided to pursue his Bachelor of Science degree, double majoring in Economics and Finance, in the Williams College of business. In his time at Xavier, he has exhibited an unwavering dedication to excellence in all his endeavors. This includes sustaining an exceptional level of academic achievement thus far as well as frequently engaging in service opportunities when they arise. He is also an active member of

numerous clubs on campus including the African students association, Innovation society, International student's society and the Xavier Navigators.



## Xye Inzauro

Xye Inzauro is a Junior Nursing major with French and Spanish minors. While Nursing keeps her busy, she is still very active both on and off campus. On campus she is a member of the Interfaith Cabinet, BSA, ASA, and SOL (where she currently holds the position of Treasurer). She also regularly attends Community Night which is sponsored by the CFJ. Off campus, Xye has a long history of community service including being a youth group leader, participating

in Xavier's Community Action Day and X-Change programs, tutoring at Su Casa Hispanic Center and with Muskitigers, and has applied and been accepted to participate in Xavier's Alternative Breaks program this spring. Xye has also been involved in different demonstrations at Xavier and in true Musketeer spirit, is focused on the principle of all for one and one for all which propels her in her fight for justice and equality.



## Gala Rai Hughley

Gala Rai Hughley is a Junior at Xavier University, studying Middle Childhood Education, with concentrations in Mathematics and English. She is from Shaker Heights, Ohio where she graduated honors, from Shaker Heights High School. Currently, Gala is a Senior Resident Assistant (SRA), in which she leads a group of 15 other Resident Assistants (RAs), in Bishop Fenwick Place. Gala is also a member of Xavier University's Symphonic Winds, and Gospel Choir, where she

plays Clarinet and Bass Clarinet. Gala is heavily involved with the Center of Faith and Justice, where she is a leads the Common Ground Protestant Worship in song and/or verses of Scripture every Sunday. Gala Hughley plans to graduate to become a Middle School Mathematics teacher, and hopes to further her education to get a Master's in Education Administration, where she can make changes to the Education system, in which she is passionate about.



### Mischell Woodson-Levey

Mischell Woodson-Levey was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio by Victoria and Roy Woodson-Levey. She is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at Xavier University. Mischell is a role model, leader, God-lover, aunt, sister, advocate for children, and a friend. Mischell's greatest joy in life is being an aunt to her nieces: Kammy, Kyla, Kelis, and Angel. Growing up with

her twin sister Naomi, she learned the importance of keeping family first. In the future Mischell wants to teach third grade in an urban school district. Mischell has been blessed to have so many wonderful opportunities, some of the opportunities have been provided by Xavier University Childhood Education Department, by observing elementary school classrooms. Mischell has worked with schools such as Evanston Academy, Norwood View Elementary School, and the School of Creative and Performance Art. Through these observations and working with children Mischell has developed her teaching philosophy.



### Sarah Ochieng

Sarah Ochieng is a junior from Nairobi, Kenya majoring in Political Science and minoring in Theatre. Ochieng is student senator, a Vice-President of the African Students Association and an Antonio Johnson committee member. As a member of the Black Student Association, Ochieng helped mobilize students to stand in solidarity with students of Mizzou. Ochieng was a 2015 Summer Service Intern at the Ohio Justice and Policy Center. She has also served as a smooth

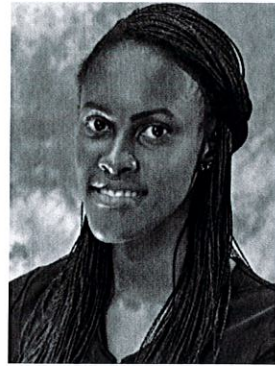
transition mentor for minority students, X-change volunteer at the boys and girls club, site leader at Lydia's House and site co-coordinator of Homework Club. Ochieng is a site leader for the 2016 Alternative Breaks program and will lead 10 students to explore the impact of HIV/AIDS on Memphis, Tennessee. Ochieng is a Winter-Cohen Brueggeman Fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year. Her research focuses on developing strategies to put an end to the practice of child marriage.



### Hannah Sheppard

Hannah Sheppard, a native Chicagoan, is pursuing degrees in Communication Studies, Theatre, and Strategic Human Resource Management. As a member of the Xavier campus and extended community, Hannah actively participates in activities that demonstrate and enhance her leadership abilities and commitment to helping others. Some of her activities include: leading weekly leadership development seminars for first year Xavier students; serving

as an outreach and worship leader in Navigators Christian Fellowship, and leading afternoon bible study for a group of local high school girls. Hannah is also active in the theatre department and works both on and off stage. Hannah has held internships in the Office of Student Involvement, Office of Sustainability, and Queen City Crowdfunding Consulting Inc. Through faith, service, and dedication she aspires to become an exemplary leader in her community.



### Adaolisa Nnaji

Adaolisa Nnaji is a junior with a double major in Marketing and Economics from Nigeria. She has immersed herself into the Xavier community, and currently serves as the President of the African Students Association, Treasurer of the Economics Students Association, Interlink Peer Mentor, and a member of the Student Leadership Advisory Board. Nnaji is a woman for and with others. As an Interlink Peer Mentor, she helps International students get acclimatized to the

Xavier Community, while acting selflessly. Also, volunteering as a tutor in the WUCC Homework Club, she helps students from low-income minority families complete their homework, while establishing an ongoing relationship with the student. Moreover, the Xavier community honored her with the Muskies Emerging Leader Award for demonstrating immense growth and potential in the community. Her leadership and service involvement demonstrates her dedication to the community. Nnaji plans on getting her Master's Degree after her Bachelor's degree, with plans of working for the World Bank.



### Aichetou Waiga

Aichetou Waiga is a junior Biology major and Spanish minor. She moved to the United States with her family at the age of twelve and learned English within months. She would go on to graduate from North College Hill HS as Salutatorian. Aichetou is involved with multiple organizations on campus such as Muslim Students Association, the Center for Faith and Justice, African Students Association, the Biology Club, Ernest Just Scholars and Pre-Med Students Association.

In the future, Aichetou hopes to attend the Ohio University School of Osteopathic Medicine to study Gynecology and Obstetrics and work with underrepresented women.



### Tayjia Wright

Tayjia Wright is a junior psychology major from Indianapolis, Indiana. Throughout her academic career she has been involved tremendously in the Xavier community. From being a Smooth Transitions mentor, to the president of LEAD, her leadership experience here at Xavier University has proved fruitful for both herself and the communities that she serves. She deems it an honor to be considered for such a prestige award. If she is blessed enough to receive the award,

she hopes to further the legacy of Antonio Johnson by embodying selflessness and excellence throughout every aspect of her academic, personal, and professional life.

## HISTORY OF THE BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

During the 1960s, Xavier University, along with many other American universities, experienced racial strife. African-American students attending Xavier in the '60s wanted privileges and opportunities similar to those of their white counterparts. In 1969, the University recognized the need and created the urban affairs office, which was designed to assist African-American students in their pursuit of higher education.

In conjunction with the Urban Affairs Office, the Black Student Association, formerly called the Afro-American student association, was formed to help meet the needs of African-American students. Ken Blackwell, Tony Davis, Wes Turner, Barbara Milon, Alicia Coggins and Amelia Tucker were the pioneers of this organization.

The organization continues to commit itself to meeting the unique needs of African-American students at Xavier, and it serves as an integral lifeline that supports academic excellence, involved leadership and service to the community.

## BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016

President .....Narrean Marsden  
Administrative Vice President .....Tayjia Weathers-Wright  
Secretary .....Tommy Johnson  
Treasurer..... Kayswana McCoy  
Senate Member-at-Large .....Jeremiah Pennebaker  
Public Relations Coordinator .....Kaelen Doolan  
Advisor .....Dr. Kyra Shahid  
Audrey Calloway

## ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP GALA PLANNING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

### Sierra Shockley

First, I would like to congratulate all of the 2016 Antonio Johnson Scholarship contestants. We reward and commend you for "Reaching Back To Pass It Forward" with all of your wisdom, and change you have implemented on Xavier's campus.

To the greatest co-chair, I have enjoyed every minute with you leading to this day. Thank you for opening up and not only becoming the best partner but also a great friend. Working with you has been such a pleasure and I wish you the best wishes going into your senior year at Xavier University.

To my phenomenal committee thank you for dedication through out the year to make tonight magnificent. We would not have been able to pull of such a marvelous event without you. All of you are amazing leaders and I can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Conclusively, anyone that had a part in tonight's event I cannot thank you enough. Please sit back and enjoy the evening.

### Diamond Brown

First and foremost I would like to congratulate all of the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Nominees on your accomplishments which have brought you here tonight. You are all deserving of this night and have done an amazing job reaching back to pass it forward

To our amazing committee, thank you for your hard work and dedication to make tonight's event possible. You all have been wonderful to work with and I wish you all great success in the years to come.

To my dear co-chair, I am a glad to call you a close friend, words cannot describe how blessed I am to have such an amazing individual like you by my side. Your support means so much to me and I couldn't imagine all of this coming together without you. You are truly an inspiration, your hard work and dedication to all that you do is admirable and will take you far in life.

Finally to everyone who had a part in tonight's event thank you so much. Tonight would not be possible without your contributions. Thank you all and please enjoy the night.

## ANTONIO JOHNSON GALA COMMITTEE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Kyra Shahid, Sarah O'chieng, Sierra Shockley, Gynice Person, Diamond Brown, Nia Mosley, Charla Henderson  
 NOT PICTURED: Justin Hardiman, Brianna Chenault, Roslyn Davis, Devin Richard, Abrena Rowe, and Favene Billa

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Black Student Association and the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Gala planning committee would like to acknowledge the special support received from the following persons, departments, and organizations. Please accept our most sincere appreciation for your attendance, financial contribution, superb service and other assistance.

Family of Antonio Johnson  
 Mr & Mrs. Benjamin J. Allen  
 Omari Aarons  
 Jerry Cline-Bailey  
 Favene Billa  
 Diamond Brown  
 Marsha Burton  
 Audrey Calloway  
 Brianna Chenault  
 James Cosby  
 Roslyn Davis  
 Victoria Dickerson  
 Joya Dillard  
 Father Graham  
 Justin Hardiman  
 Charla Henderson  
 Tekeia N.K. Howard  
 Tommy Johnson  
 Narrean Marsden  
 Nia Mosley  
 Chloe Motley  
 Sarah O'chieng  
 Wilson Okello  
 Chimoa Orizu  
 Gynice Person  
 Devin Richard  
 Abrena Rowe  
 Pamela Sanders

Dr. Kyra Shahid  
 Sierra Shockley  
 Dr. Taj Smith  
 Dr. Mary Stroud  
 Tayjia Weathers-Wright  
 Gregg Bacon Quartet  
 African Student Association  
 Center for Adult and Part-Time Students  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 Commuter Council  
 Department of Education  
 Division of Student Affairs  
 Financial Administration  
 Gentleman Organized for Achievement and Leadership  
 Ladies with Emphasis on Distinction and Achievement  
 Macy's, Inc.  
 Multicultural, Gender & Women's Center  
 National Pan-Hellenic Council  
 Office of Academic Advising  
 Office of Academic Affairs  
 Office of Admission  
 Office of the President  
 Office of Resident Life  
 Student Activities Council  
 Student Government Association  
 TRIO University of Communications  
 University Relations