



# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Delta Tau Omega Chapter - Lansing, Michigan

## Pearls of Excellence Foundation, Inc.

Lansing, Michigan

### Brief Background

On January 15, 1908, **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** was founded on the campus of Howard University. Its purposes, envisioned by Ethel Hedgemon Lyle and 15 other women, have applied to every transformation presented to the African-American community throughout the 20th Century. From this vision, Alpha Kappa Alpha became an incorporated body on January 29, 1913. The sorority has grown into a force of more than 325,000 initiated collegiate and graduate members, constituting over 1,000 chapters worldwide.

On December 17, 1947, **Delta Tau Omega Chapter** of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was chartered in Lansing, Michigan with the purpose of encouraging high scholastic values and achievement, promoting ethical standards, and providing community service for the benefit of the Greater Lansing community. Delta Tau Omega has decades of service and participation in various civic, religious, political, and educational endeavors in the Lansing community and beyond.

The **Pearls of Excellence Foundation, Inc.** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, established in December 2019, by members of Delta Tau Omega Chapter. The foundation is a separate legal entity from the chapter, whose mission is to enhance, equip and empower the Greater Lansing community to cultivate positive change.

## Delta Tau Omega Chapter & Pearls of Excellence Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

Delta Tau Omega Chapter, in partnership with the Pearls of Excellence Foundation, Inc. will award several college scholarships to Greater Lansing area high school seniors. These scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Senior Salute and Scholarship Celebration. Senior Salute is the chapter's signature community program. Students are nominated by their high school administrator (counselor or principal) to participate in Senior Salute. These nominated students are then invited to register to attend Senior Salute and apply for our college scholarships. The Chapter and Foundation intend to award approximately 10 scholarships annually.

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### 2022-2026 International Sorority Programs

Service and sisterhood have been the cornerstone of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® since 1908. With the theme **Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood**, the 2022-2026 administration seeks to build upon Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's rich legacy of service by galvanizing our sisterhood of more than 120,000 active members to lead on the front lines of change, education, and advocacy.

This administration has six initiatives. Strengthen Our Sisterhood will serve as the administration's "Foundation Initiative" as we strengthen our bonds to support our service mission.

The remaining five initiatives will serve as the "Program Initiatives" which include:

- Empower Our Families**
- Build Our Economic Wealth**
- Enhance Our Environment**
- Advocate for Social Justice**
- Uplift Our Local Community**

These initiatives are designed to improve the lives of those we serve. We will work collaboratively to maximize our outreach on progressive endeavors and consistently produce leaders who will advance our credo of service.



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### Scholarship Descriptions

#### Historical Background Senior Salute

Senior Salute began in 1980 as a vehicle to publicly recognize African-American high school seniors in Greater Lansing for their efforts in securing an education and graduating. The Senior Salute and Scholarship Celebration is held annually in the spring. The purpose of Senior Salute is three-fold: 1). Recognize African-American graduating seniors in the Greater Lansing area. 2). Acknowledge the special accomplishment of honor students who have earned at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA. 3). Award college scholarships. Senior Salute provides an opportunity to honor and congratulate students for achieving this academic milestone and thanking their families, teachers and administrators who made the financial and emotional investments in their students' success.



**The Marguerite K. Gooden Scholarship** was developed to recognize the tireless work of Marguerite Gooden as a dedicated educator in the Lansing Public Schools for over 30 years. Mrs. Gooden received her B.S. in Sociology from Prairie View State University and M.A. in History from Michigan State University. Upon earning her graduate degree, Mrs. Gooden taught at Walter French Junior High School and J. W. Sexton High School. She served the Lansing School District from September 1, 1956 to June 15, 1984. Mrs. Gooden loved teaching mathematics and science and always desired to see more students pursue these disciplines in college.

**Criteria:**

1. African American female graduating senior enrolled at J.W. Sexton High School. 2. Low-income (based on family household income) and first-generation college student. 3. Minimum GPA 2.5. 4. Pursue a STEM major in college.

**The Clara Betty Anderson Scholarship** was established in honor of Mrs. Anderson's work and dedication to the field of nursing and healthcare. Mrs. Anderson received her Master's degree in Nursing Education from the University of Chicago and Master's degree in Special Education from Michigan State University. Her nursing career in the Lansing area began at St. Lawrence Hospital as an Assistant Director of Nursing Education. She worked as an In-Service Director and Staff Nurse at Sparrow Hospital until her retirement in 1983. Mrs. Anderson joined the Lansing School District in 1960 as a teacher for hospitalized children. She taught home-bound children and math to 7th through 9th graders and worked as a part-time school nurse until her retirement in 1984.

**Criteria:**

1. Minimum GPA 2.5. 2. Pursue nursing or a healthcare related major in college.

**The HBCU Scholarship** supports a Lansing area high school student who has applied and been admitted to a Historically Black College or University. HBCUs offer all students, regardless of race, an opportunity to develop their skills and talents. These institutions train young people who go on to serve domestically and internationally in the professions as entrepreneurs and in the public and private sectors.

**Criteria:**

1. Minimum GPA 2.5. 2. Applied and accepted to an HBCU.

**The Dorothy A. Kennedy/L. Margaret Groves Keepers of the Dream Scholarship** is through the Educational Advancement Foundation, a 501(c)3 entity of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Groves, along with 11 other accomplished women, chartered Delta Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on December 17, 1947. They both held influential and leadership positions in the chapter and the Greater Lansing community. Mrs. Kennedy remained active until her passing in 2013; and Mrs. Groves continues to be an active member of the chapter.

**Criteria:**

1. Demonstrates leadership skills, community service and/or civic engagement. 2. Minimum GPA 3.0.

**The Dr. Olivia Letts Commitment to the Dream Scholarship** is through the Educational Advancement Foundation, a 501(c)3 entity of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Dr. Letts was the first African American hired by the Lansing School District in 1951. She continued to be a pillar in the Greater Lansing community until her passing on February 1, 2021.

**Criteria:**

1. Demonstrates community service skills and civic engagement. 2. Minimum GPA 2.7. 3. Graduating high school senior from a Lansing school.

In addition to the above named scholarships, Delta Tau Omega Chapter and the Pearls of Excellence Foundation will award several **general scholarships**. These scholarships are not tied to specific college major, academic interest or institutional type (e.g. HBCU).