

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq.  
President, The Harbor Institute  
(202) 599-2155  
[racromwell@theharborinstitute.com](mailto:racromwell@theharborinstitute.com)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### THE HARBOR INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY GREEK COMMUNITY IN ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON, DC – APRIL 2, 2021 – The Harbor Institute (Harbor) is proud to announce our work with Illinois State University in their ground-breaking anti-racism training for sorority and fraternity members campus-wide. Students from the College Panhellenic Council (CPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and United Greek Council (UGC) joined together to support Sorority and Fraternity Life, a unit of the Dean of Students Office. A record number of over 700 students attended this first educational experience which was titled “All We Do is Step, Stroll, and Hop? What is a Black Greek?™”

“Putting anti-racism training in the context of the students’ own sorority and fraternity experience is an ingenious idea,” said Shawn M. Dowiak, Ed.D., the assistant dean of students who oversees sorority and fraternity life at Illinois State. “I think that our two-year partnership with the Harbor Institute to provide six customized inter-council and interdisciplinary power sessions a year, assessment, and curriculum development, plus additional consulting support to our sorority and fraternity members, is cutting-edge student affairs practice. Not many institutions are engaging in this broad or deep of an attempt to educate their fraternity and sorority community on the principles of being anti-racist.”

Student leaders within the community had positive things to say about the first program as well. Alejandra Reskala, a sister of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. and the United Greek Council president, described the first program as “Leaving you wanting more...I wanted the program to run longer.” Naudia Williams, a sister of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the National Pan-Hellenic Council president, said, “Racism and its systems have plagued the world for centuries, but we as a Greek community are seeking to combat that and make change.” It was the four governing councils that oversee and give a voice to the sorority and fraternity community on campus that voted to mandate anti-racism training for the community.

Support from all councils for this program has been robust, and large attendance numbers for the first program swelled above the mandated minimum numbers for the community. The reason for this robust support, according to CPC president and member of Delta Zeta Lexi Showalter, stems from the values of Greek organizations. with those pasts and helping to dismantle systems of racism today is what it means to celebrate the pillar of sisterhood and brotherhood that the community expects of all Greek letter organizations.”

“As noted in the Panhellenic Creed, our principles as a community include to ‘develop our character’ and to have ‘mutual respect’ for others. However, we cannot strive toward those tenets without finally confronting our racist past and progressing from it.” Dowiak added to this, “Students in Greek letter organizations must recognize daily that the history of these organizations are pasts of exclusion. Coming to term with those pasts and helping to dismantle systems of racism today is what it means to celebrate the pillar of sisterhood and brotherhood that the community expects of all Greek letter organizations.”

Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq., president and founder of The Harbor Institute, the educational consulting firm partnering with Illinois State University to develop this anti-racism hybrid assessments, consulting, training, and programming over the next two years stressed the importance of these type of partnerships: “For years, fraternity and sorority life is noted for their leadership, service, and philanthropy to the community. The amount of impact and influence this community generates is broad reaching and life changing. We embrace that same energy and spirit to collectively address the deeply rooted and institutionalized challenges that we face in an ever-changing world. Who else is better situated to impact not only the Illinois State University community and the Normal, IL community? This partnership is powerful, because it empowers communities and students with real-life cultural competency skill sets to also support their own professional development. It is a win-win for all.”

Jacob Rottinghaus, IFC president and member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, agreed with Cromwell. “This unique partnership helps us learn and grow in the most important way possible.”

###

#### ABOUT

[The Harbor Institute](#) is a consulting firm based out of Washington, DC., We develop and implement educational products and services for companies, institutions and organizations in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), fraternity and sorority life, leadership development, hazing prevention and cultural empowerment. Visit [The Harbor Institute](#) to learn more and connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.