

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER
BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
PRESENTS



2025
Scholarship
Gala

Saturday, July 19, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton – San Antonio Airport Hotel
611 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216



THE SAN ANTONIO
ZULU
ASSOCIATION 

Providing scholarships and opportunities for tomorrow's emerging leaders, while assisting those in need throughout the community.



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HISTORY OF BIG

Blacks In Government® (BIG) was established in 1975 and incorporated in 1976 by a small group of African Americans at the Public Health Services which is a part of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Parklawn building in Rockville, Maryland. The organization was viewed as essential to the Black civil service employee, based on a wide assortment of racially motivated problems faced by the HEW Black employees in Rockville. Initially, it was thought that the umbrella organization would address only the problems at the Federal level. However, it was soon determined that State, County, and Municipal Black employees were faced with the same general type of employment problems.

BIG has been a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern and use their collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. BIG's goals are to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

The San Antonio (Alamo City) Chapter of Blacks In Government was formed in 1980 and is part of Region VI which has Chapters in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The San Antonio Chapter of Blacks In Government is a registered 501 (c) 3 - nonprofit seeking to engage and advocate on behalf of city, county, state, federal and military African American Government workers. The broad organizational goals and objectives include advocating for diversity, developing and promoting programs, which will enhance ethnic pride, educational opportunities, and providing a non-partisan platform on major issues of local, regional, and national significance.



BIG GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Blacks in government.
2. To eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in government.
3. To promote professionalism among Blacks in government.
4. To develop and promote programs which will enhance ethnic pride and educational opportunities for Blacks in government.
5. To establish a mechanism for gathering and disseminating information for Blacks in government.
6. To provide a nonpartisan platform on major issues of local, regional and national significance that affect Blacks in government.

BIG PURPOSE

An advocate of equal opportunity and professional development for Black government employees at the Local, State and Federal government levels and others dedicated to justice for all.

BIG VISION

Member focused, world class enterprise, recognized for excellence.

BIG MISSION

Enable all present and future Black employees in Local, State, and Federal governments to have the ability to maximize their career opportunities and provide a mechanism for inclusion, growth and advocacy.

BIG GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Be Accountable
- Commit to Excellence
- Act with Integrity
- Take Responsibility
- Work As A Team
- Remain Loyal and Dedicated



SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

July 19, 2025

Greetings,

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the San Antonio Chapter of Blacks in Government, I am honored to welcome you to our Annual Scholarship Gala. This event is a celebration of resilience, community, and the power of collective action during times of change and challenge.

As we gather here tonight, your presence and support reflect a shared commitment to empowering our youth, strengthening our community, and fostering opportunities for growth and success. In a world that continues to evolve, your contributions help us adapt and expand our programs to meet the needs of the Greater San Antonio Community. More importantly, it helps us empower youth and members to have BIG Dreams, a Bold Purpose, and to make Real Impact.

Your generosity enables us to sustain initiatives such as scholarships, youth mentoring programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Communication. It also enables us to sustain community service projects, including our Back-to-School Supply Drive and Project Vote efforts empowering our members to become informed voters and leaders in the community. These efforts are more critical than ever as we navigate the complexities of today's social and economic landscape.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on our successes and expand our impact. Together, we can continue to make a difference, ensuring that every child and family in our community has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Thank you for joining us and for your unwavering support. Your contributions inspire hope and create lasting change.

Yours Sincerely,

Myra Evans-Manyweather
President, San Antonio Chapter



SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

Dear Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to the 2025 Scholarship Gala!

We are overjoyed to welcome you to this evening of celebration and inspiration. This year's theme, "BIG Dreams. Bold Purpose. Real Impact," beautifully captures the heart of our mission, and we are delighted to share this extraordinary evening with you.

Our gala is a tribute to the power of dreams and the transformative impact of education. We are honored to celebrate three exceptional high school graduates whose stories embody resilience, ambition, and achievement. You'll hear firsthand from these remarkable scholarship recipients as they share their journeys and the profound ways BIG's support has shaped their futures. We've crafted an enchanting program filled with captivating entertainment, heartfelt speeches, and opportunities to connect with passionate individuals.

We hope you savor every moment and leave feeling inspired by the dreams and accomplishments of our scholars and keynote speaker. We hope you'll continue to stand alongside us in the year ahead. Your presence and support tonight are essential to helping us nurture more dreams and unlock more potential through education.

This unforgettable evening would not be possible without our PHENOMENAL Special Events Committee members and our DEVOTED Scholarship Committee who undertook the important task of selecting this year's honorees.

Once again, thank you for joining us. Together, we are making bold strides toward a future where education unlocks infinite possibilities.

Warm regards,

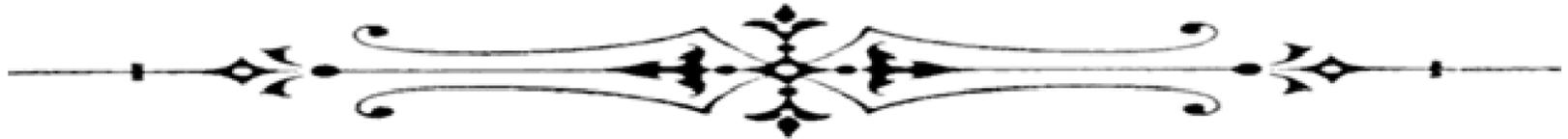
Alicia Butler
Executive Vice President
Scholarship Chair
SAC BIG

Cynthia West, BAS, CPCS, MSHA
Special Events Chair
SAC BIG



**2025 BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER**

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



OFFICERS:

President.....	Ms. Myra Evans-Manyweather
Executive Vice-President.....	Ms. Alicia Butler
Secretary/Corresponding Secretary.....	Ms. Brandy Sanghott
Treasurer.....	Mr. Tommy Davis
Assistant Treasurer	Ms. Darcell Robinson

CHAIRPERSONS AND PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES:

Chaplain	Rev Darrell Lewis
Historian	Mr. Luther Sweeney
Parliamentarian	Mr. Edward Ratcliffe
Communications & Public Relations	Ms. Brandy Sanghott
Finance Committee	Mr. Tommy Davis
Legislative Committee	Ms. Yolanda Turner
Nominating and Elections	Mr. Luther Sweeney
Scholarship & Achievement Committee..	Ms. Alicia Butler
Special Events & Community Outreach	
Coordinator.....	Ms. Cynthia West
Social Justice Coordinator	Rev Ernest Felder
Voter Registration	Ms. Glenda Henry



REGION VI COUNCIL BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT



Region VI Blacks in Government was formed in 1980. Chapters are located in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. BIG Region VI seeks to engage and advocate on behalf of city, county, state, federal, and military African American government workers. Region VI is committed to promoting excellence in government through equity of opportunity.

Region VI Council Officers – CY 2025

President - Honorable Shelly L. Warren, Greater New Orleans Chapter

1st Vice President - Tracy L. Pearsall, Central Arkansas Chapter

2nd Vice President - Frank Taylor, Austin Chapter

Secretary - Frances L. Walters, North Texas Chapter

Assistant Secretary - Tashai Williams, Greater New Orleans Chapter

Treasurer - David Hines, Dallas Metroplex Chapter

Assistant Treasurer - Darrell Porter- Austin Chapter

Parliamentarian - David Hines, Dallas Metroplex Chapter

Region VI Directors:

Kimberly Williams - Austin Chapter

Charlene Lee - Dallas Metroplex Chapter



THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scholarship Gala Committee

Cynthia West (Chair), Alicia Butler, Tommy Davis, Rev. Darrell Lewis, Dr. Eustace Lewis, Salena Mabins, Darcell Robinson, and Brandy Sanghott

Scholarship Committee

Alicia Butler (Chair), Phyllis Bergen-Jackson, Rev. Darrell Lewis, Brandy Sanghott, Luther Sweeney, and Cynthia West

Special Thank You

Crunch Fitness
Decorations by Mrs. Deborah Cloud
Doubletree by Hilton Airport Hotel
DJ OMG
Dr. Eustace Lewis
Ethel's Essential Boutique
Golden Corral
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Nicha's Comida Mexican Restaurant
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BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

Raymond H. Beebe Scholarship Hazel and William Hays Scholarship Sherry Blake Memorial Scholarship *Recipients*

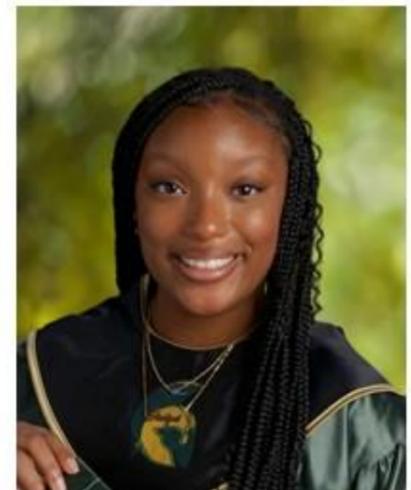


Keenyah Armand

graduated from Samuel Clemens High School in the Schertz-Cibolo ISD. She was active in the Student Council for all four years, serving as President during her senior year. Keenyah was a member of the National Honor Society and was crowned the 2024 Homecoming Queen. She started her own baking business, Keenyah's Konfections LLC, in 2020. Keenyah is also a member of Resurrection Baptist Church, participating in the youth choir, praise dance ministry, and completing their three-and-a-half-year Evangelism program. With a 95 GPA, she will attend the University of Houston in the fall, majoring in Hospitality Management. In recognition of her academic excellence, Keenyah will receive the **Raymond H. Beebe Scholarship**, honoring Mr. Beebe's commitment to improve public service through the promotion of equity, excellence, and opportunity in the workplace.

Paityn Guillory

graduated from Southwest Legacy High School in the Southwest ISD. She was active in the Student Council, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Volleyball, and served as the Men's Basketball Manager. Paityn received the Southwest Legacy Track and Field 5A-2B All-District Academic Award for 2024-2025 and was recognized as the Southwest Legacy Volleyball 5A-2B All-District Academic Player for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 while serving as the Volleyball Captain. She is a member of Dellcrest Church of Christ. With an 88 GPA, Paityn will attend St. Philip's College in the fall, majoring in Radiography Technology. In recognition of her achievements, Paityn will receive the **Hazel and William Hays Scholarship**, which celebrates the founder of the San Antonio Chapter of BIG, the late Mrs. Hazel Hays and her late husband.



Dillan Tanner

graduated from Veterans Memorial High School in the Judson ISD. She was active in the Student Council and National Honor Society. Dillan participated in Track and Cross Country, serving as Captain of the Cross Country Team from 2024 to 2025. She was also involved in DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), serving as President from 2024 to 2025 and Vice President from 2023 to 2024, leading the team to state competition this past spring. Dillan's community service included volunteering at the Food Bank and Diaper Bank, participating in Wreaths Across America, and packing Thanksgiving baskets for distribution to over 250 families. With a 97 GPA, she will attend Texas A&M University in the fall, majoring in Business Administration. In honor of her academic excellence and outstanding community service, Dillan will receive the **Sherry Blake Memorial Scholarship**, which honors the legacy of the late Mrs. Sherry Blake, former Second Vice President of the San Antonio Chapter of BIG.



PROGRAM

San Antonio Chapter - Blacks in Government Scholarship Gala

"BIG Dreams. Bold Purpose. Real Impact"

Welcome & Occasion

Myra Evans-Manyweather, President, SAC BIG

Processional of Scholarship Recipients

Keenyah Armand- Samuel Clemens High School/University of Houston

Paityn Guillory – Southwest Legacy High School/St. Philip's College

Dillan Tanner – Veterans Memorial High School/Texas A&M University

Introduction of Master of Ceremony

Cynthia West, Special Events Chair, SAC BIG

Master of Ceremony

Rev. Darrell Lewis, Chaplain, SAC BIG

Recognition of Special Guests

Rev. Darrell Lewis, Chaplain, SAC BIG

Blessing of Meal

Rev. Darrell Lewis, Chaplain, SAC BIG

--DINNER IS SERVED--

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Salena Mabins, SAC BIG

Keynote Address

Dr. Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, Professor, and Chair in Caregiver Research, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio School of Nursing

Scholarship Award Presentation

Alicia Butler, Executive Vice President & Scholarship Chair, SAC BIG

Special Recognition

Cynthia West, Special Events Chair, SAC BIG

Closing Remarks

Myra Evans-Manyweather, President, SAC BIG

Dance..... DJ OMG

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN
RESEARCH & COMMUNITY

Dr. Fayron EPPS

ABOUT ME

Dr. Fayron Epps is a nurse and community-engaged researcher specializing in dementia care, family caregiving, and health disparities. She is a Professor and the Karen and Ronald Hermann Distinguished Chair in Caregiver Research at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio School of Nursing. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Southern Gerontological Society, and Gerontological Society of America. She is an active member of the Board of Directors for the Southern Gerontological Society, the Gerontological Society of America, and the Alzheimer's Association South Texas Chapter.

Dr. Epps is known for her community-engaged research and her efforts to partner with faith communities to improve dementia care and resources. Her research includes exploring how faith-based organizations can serve as a support system for families and caregivers and developing culturally relevant resources to address health disparities in dementia care.



Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN



Dr. Epps is the Founder of Alter Dementia, the only nurse-led, dementia-friendly congregation program. Her efforts to create dementia-friendly faith spaces and educate caregivers demonstrate a profound understanding of the cultural and emotional dynamics that influence caregiving in African American communities. Moreover, her research reflects compassion and a commitment to equity, qualities that are crucial in healthcare and academia.

Her work bridges the gap between research and real-world application by ensuring that her research directly benefits the populations she serves. Dr. Epps has received various accolades and funding for her innovative work in health equity, dementia care, and community engagement.



*"Sweet" Hodges Chapel
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Mission Statement:

"To be servants of God, showing compassion, and love, while leading individuals to Christ.

Colossians 3:12



Rev. Dr. Venita L. Bowie, Pastor

*Congratulations
to the San Antonio Chapter of
Blacks In Government
2025 Black and White
Scholarship Gala*

*Mrs. Phyllis Bergen-Jackson
Hodges Chapel A.M.E. Church Member*

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*Dr. Jerry Wm. &
Lady Janice M. Dailey*

&

MBC CONGRATULATES

***Blacks in Government (BIG)
2025 Scholarship Gala***

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND LEAN
NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL THY
WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY
PATHS. *PROVERBS 3:5-6*



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to the scholarship winners!

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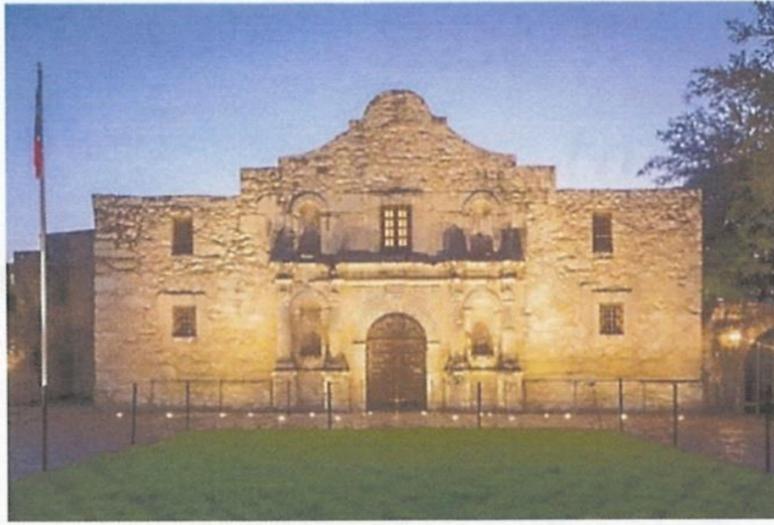
SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN CHAPTER



Motto: "Serving Youth and Adults"



**Congratulations Blacks In Government
San Antonio Chapter
ON YOUR BLACK & WHITE
SCHOLARSHIP GALA**



*Best Wishes
to
San Antonio Chapter
Blacks in Government (BIG)
2025 Scholarship Gala*



Luther Sweeney and Eleanor Sweeney

Congratulations



& the 2025 Scholarship Recipients



BIG Dreams. Bold Purpose. Real Impact

Butler Family

Alicia Butler, Executive Vice President
Scholarship Chair
San Antonio Chapter, Blacks in Government

Congratulations to President Myra Evans-Manyweather

And The

Blacks In Government

San Antonio Chapter

On Another Successful Scholarship Program

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*✦✦ Congratulations ✦✦
✦✦ Scholarship Recipients ✦✦*

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- Self Esteem
- Handling conflict
- Upholding Values
- Forming A Vision
- Compassion
- Courage



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Scholarship Recipients:



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