



GMES Fourth Quarter of 2023 Newsletter



GMES, Inc. Supporters, Sponsors, Friends:
Happy New Year and Best Wishes in 2024.

In the fourth quarter of 2023, GMES, Inc. was quite busy. We held our annual Partner meeting, November 18, 2023, at a Hilton Garden Inn meeting room in Avondale Arizona. Each of our primary Partners came and presented what their organization had accomplished in 2023 and presented their funding requests for 2024. As per our funding tradition and our effort to be good stewards of distributed funds, we asked our Partners



to provide a transparent line-item budget, from which our funding decisions were made. Through the efforts of our Partner organizations, we will be supporting multiple educational endeavors e.g. professional after school tutoring, standardized test taking fees (PSAT), HBCU tours, providing computer laptops, monthly educational and mentoring workshops. Our target demographics being served are middle and high school youth with a focus on African-American males. We will also be supporting the matriculation efforts of young African-American men at ASU through the AAMASU organization. (Please see accompanying pictures of our Partners at this important meeting.)



In December 2023, the GMES Board of Directors met, reviewed, and approved Partner funding for the 2024 fiscal year, as noted above, as well as conducted other important business to close out the year.

On October 18, 2023, the GMES Chairman Archon Dr. Don Godbold, met on the ASU campus with about 25 members of the African-American Men of Arizona State University organization (AAMASU) at their

monthly meeting. AAMASU is one of GMES's primary Partners. Dr Godbold gave an informative slide presentation with the theme of: *How to thrive and succeed academically and personally as an African-American young man in a predominantly white university setting.* His message was well received. There

was a question and answer session after the presentation. Archon Dr. Ron Thompson, our GMES Board member and AAMASU liaison was present at this event and provided mentoring discussion comments.



Planning has begun in earnest for the 12th Annual GMES Fundraising Golf Tournament. This is our primary fundraiser. The tournament Co-Chairs are Archons D. Tony Franklin and Tobin Dailey, who are both also members of the GMES Board of Directors. The tournament will be held Saturday May 11, 2024, at Papago Golf Course in Phoenix. For general information, registration and sponsorship opportunities, the website is: <https://birdease.com/Pathways2ExcellenceGolf2024>



It is through your generous donation of your **time**, **talent** and especially **treasure**, that GMES can provide much needed community support through the Partner organizations we fund. On behalf of myself and the GMES, Inc. Board of Directors, we thank and appreciate you very much.

Don Godbold, Chairman, Gamma Mu Educational Services, Inc.



GMES Fourth Quarter of 2023 Newsletter

Partner Highlight

In each GMES newsletter, each quarter, we highlight one of our four primary Partners. This fourth quarter 2023, the Partner highlighted is **Omega Youth Leadership Academy (OYLA)**. Please see their attached narrative and chronology of their fourth quarter activities and events, as well as pictures provided.

Omega Youth Leadership Academy Q 4 Summary of Programs & Events

October 2023

- Meeting the director of the Boys & Girls Club of Guadalupe, Thunderbird Branch to discuss joint holiday community event and space for monthly workshops.
- Participated and represented OYLA at a youth workshop held at the Phoenix Diamond Backs Boys & Girls Club.
- OYLA hosted recruitment opportunity for 25 OYLA students, parents, volunteers and potential members at the ASU-WSU Homecoming football game and tailgate. Resulted in 8 new applicants from: Tempe High & 3 from Mission Heights.
- President Sutton delivered the Effective Communication presentation to the Scholar Leadership Club in Glendale.
- OYLA member from Mission Heights was selected as the Phi Iota essay scholarship winner.



Tempe High Students (l) and Mission Heights Prep Students (r) at ASU Homecoming Tailgate & Game. (Not pictured students from Crestview Prep & South Mountain)

November 2023

- Met with 29 high school counselors of the Leona School District at their headquarters in Phoenix and introduced OYLA. Several of them knew Larry Ross and were familiar with OYLA. Received 6 new recruits and 1 parent.
- Met with the principal and curriculum specialist at Bethune Elementary School (K-8) to recruit Middle Schoolers.
- Attended the GMES grant meeting.
- Conducted Community Service Project. Turkey and food box distribution.
- Met with Gov. Hon. Katie Hobbs to discuss funding for an OYLA After School Program,
- Received congratulations from the Hon. Gov. Hobbs for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Omega Psi Phi.



OYLA President Sutton conducting workshop.



GMES Fourth Quarter of 2023 Newsletter

December 2023

- Conducted College Prep workshop @ Sun Valley High School in Mesa.
- Conducted College Prep workshop @ Crestview Prep in Phoenix.



OYLA ED Blunt conducting workshop.

- Conducted Overcoming Obstacles/Navigating Social & Cultural Issues @ Mission Heights Prep in Casa Grande.
- Discussed offering 2 STEM based workshops with African American Intel Employees.
- Discussed offering an aviation/aeronautics workshop with 2 separate entities. 1 rep from the African American Pilots Assn and the other was the Air Traffic Control Supervisor @ Sky Harbor.
- Assisted in providing items for a Christmas Toy Drive.

Phi Iota Essay Winner Jace Lorenzo-Mission Heights Prep



Jace Lorenzo (Sponsored by OYLA) & Family with AZ. Gov. Hon. Katie Hobbs Looking on is OYLA Executive Director Dr. Carl A. Blunt



Bethune Elementary Principal and Staff directing OYLA Mentors during Turkey Distribution



Mentors & Volunteers loading up cars with Thanksgiving turkey & trimmings.

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GMES Fourth Quarter of 2023 Newsletter

GMES Board of Directors

- Dr Donald Godbold, Chairman
- Milton Coleman, Vice-Chairman
- D. Tony Franklin, Secretary
- Roderick Wilson, Treasurer
- Dr Ron Thompson - Director
- Kelvin Kelsey - Director
- Dr Darren Wethers (Immediate Past Chairman) – Director
- Dr Brian Johnson - Director
- Tobin Daily – Director

This accomplished group of professional men, who are recognized experts in their respective fields, will direct GMES as the organization strives for excellence in fulfilling its mission and vision at the highest level.

