

Gamma Mu Educational Services, Inc.

Third Quarter 2023 Newsletter

October 31, 2023

Gamma Mu Educational Services, Inc. (GMES, Inc) was largely dark, during the hottest summer on record, here in the Phoenix Valley.

Activity centered around meeting and planning by GMES Chairman Don Godbold in preparation for Fall GMES activities and the return of Gamma Mu Boule Business meetings after the summer hiatus.

Meetings by ZOOM and via email communication, were held in July and August, related to how to implement the **Base 11/Parity Project** at South Mountain Community College and also Mesa Community College. ParityProject.com. Key leadership at both institutions were communicated with and have expressed interest in moving forward with involving interested students and faculty in this STEM promotion based initiative. The goal is to expose and encourage the consideration of a STEM education or academic major among all students with an emphasis however, on under-represented minority students.

Along this same theme, a meeting was held, in August, with key leadership from the **Dorothy Jeanius STEAM Educational Leadership Institute**. Dorothyjeanius.com. The Institute is planning an educational event in April 2024 to promote STEM and STEAM education among middle and high school students here in the Phoenix Valley. The event's purpose is to give youth, particularly BIPOC youth, the opportunity to explore these disciplines through a day of workshops and activities with a science and technology focus. The information is presented in a fun and creative way. GMES and the DJ STEAM Educational Leadership Institute are exploring ways to support each others mission and vision and specifically how GMES can partner in the planning and presentation of next years 2024 April Earth Day event.

It must be noted that **Dr Brian Johnson**, one of the Board of Directors for GMES and a member of Gamma Mu Boule, has been instrumental in facilitating the connections and introductions for the above collaboration opportunities. Dr Johnson is a distinguished and highly accomplished educator and higher education administrator. He has both a longstanding Phoenix Valley leadership history as well as an international reach, with educational endeavors in schools in East Africa.

A GMES, Inc. Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom on September 13, 2023. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Don Godbold. Important GMES business was conducted. Including the determination that the annual GMES, Inc, fundraising golf tournament will be held **Saturday May 11, 2024 at Papago Golf Course.**

September 27, 2023, was the first session of this 2023/2024 academic year **Grand Canyon University Provost Speaker Series**. The panel discussion focus was Career Change and The Evolving Workplace. No longer are individuals working for the same company for a lifetime. Personal growth and development often allow for the evolution of varied career paths.

GMES, Inc, also supported the important organization, **Coalition of Blacks Against Cancer**, September 31, during their annual fundraiser event. This non-profit organization is involved in cancer prevention in the Black community, especially breast and prostate cancers. They provide education, facilitate screening and have an active presence in the community. Lives have been saved through their efforts.

This GMES, Inc, Quarterly Newsletter began publication this year 2023. Each quarter, one of the key Partners that GMES supports is highlighted. This quarter's Partner highlight is the **Project Alpha** organization. Please see the submission below from Project Alpha outlining their third quarter 2023 activity.

This July for the **Developing Tomorrow's Leader Program**, the Delta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. continued its momentum from the Big Brothers Big Sisters "Big for a Day" Event, by wrapping up our topic on **Umoja (Unity)** with a fun celebration at Main Event Tempe!

Our Student Mentors of the Mu Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc from Arizona State University led an engaging activity where they gave a bowling lesson (using science!), and we also had a great discussion on the topic of conflict resolution with the youth. We then enjoyed a variety of activities including bowling, arcade games, pool, laser tag and even an obstacle course!



The young boys and men enjoying themselves on the elevated obstacle course, eating pizza and laser tag at Main Event.

August, the Program turned its focus to **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)** where we covered the following: with the young boys ages 6 to 11, we did our "**Lifeline**" activity where we made a large timeline on the whiteboard and the youth identified the different stages of life (infancy, youth, teen, young adult etc.). Next, we discussed the different freedoms and responsibilities that come with each stage. This helped the youth get a

better overall picture of some of the changes that they will experience as they progress through their lives.

We also asked the youth to think about the social groups at their school. They came up with 5 different groups (athletes, gamers, artists etc.) and each created a mask to represent their group of choice. This led to a discussion of how we sometimes wear masks to fit in with certain social groups and how it is important to not change who we are just to fit in.

With our teen group, we had a discussion on “**What it Means to be an African-American Man**” where the teens identified characteristics that exemplify manhood, and we identified several famous African-American men who have (or had) qualities of excellence.

We also completed a fun and engaging activity around common stereotypes about African-American men and the truths that counter those stereotypes.

In September, the program continued its focus on **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)**, covering topics within the youth group on **self-esteem and image** and with our Teens we invited Arizona State University's own and brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc Alonzo Jones to highlight various **communication techniques**.

As late as October, Developing Tomorrow's Leaders began covering the principle of **Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)** with a fun series of activities for our youth including a **S.T.E.A.M. based Escape Room!** With our Teen Group, we had a great discussion on the topic of the **Roles of Males in Relationships**.



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc member Darrin Williams playing games with the youth.



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc members Stephan Crudup (left) and Darrian Owens (right) lecturing the teens the importance of male role models

In the last quarter of 2023, we will cover the ever growing responsibility we want our young people to display in **social media and gaming highlighting risks around protecting one's private information, cyberbullying, and even addiction**. Come Join us **November 11, 2023 at the Boys & Girls Club 715 W 5th St Tempe, AZ 10:30am to 12:30 pm**. Also In December culminating with our themes, we are hosting a **Kwanzaa Celebration** with our young people **December 30** - please contact the following for details: mbond24@gmail.com; Aaron.Gatewood@gmail.com; trey.crosby@gmail.com

In closing, thank you for your on-going support and interest in GMES, Inc. We appreciate you.

Donald T. J. Godbold, MD, MS, MBA
Chairman, GMES, Inc.

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