The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Birmingham Professionals Chapter is a 501(c) (3) non-profit association dedicated to the academic and professional success of African American engineering and technical students and professionals.

Our mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers, who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. NSBE-Birmingham fulfills the mission of NSBE by organizing, sponsoring, and attending an array of workshops, community activities, scholarship funding, mentoring, and networking events.

We facilitate the development of strong technical professionals and leaders, encourage minority students to eagerly seek out degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics related fields, and empower the community with the knowledge and foresight to strengthen the very foundation that enables our community as a whole to achieve greater heights.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES:

- Stimulate and develop student interest in the various engineering disciplines.
- Encourage and advise minority youth in their pursuit of an engineering career.
- Strive to increase the number of students studying engineering at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Encourage members to seek advanced degrees in engineering or related fields and to obtain/maintain professional engineering registrations.
- Promote public awareness of engineering and the opportunities for blacks and other minorities in that profession.
- Function as a representative body on issues and developments that affect the careers of black engineers.
The first General Body Meeting of the 2014-2015 NSBE Birmingham Service Year will be held on September 9, 2014. The meeting will be hosted at The Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel located at 1000 Riverchase Galleria, Birmingham, AL 35244.

The speaker for the evening with be Dr. Lakami Baker. Dr. Baker will be presenting on the topic of Entrepreneurship.

Dr. LaKami Baker is an Associate Professor at Auburn University and teaches strategic management and entrepreneurship. Dr. Baker and has served as a faculty member of the school since 2008. Prior to joining Auburn University, Dr. Baker was a faculty member of Mississippi State University. In addition to Dr. Baker’s career in academia, she also has 11 years of experience as an engineer and product marketer with 3M. While working for 3M she was certified by the Product Development and Management Association as a New Product Development Professional.

Dr. Baker is a member of the Academy of Management, Strategic Management Society, Southern Management Association and the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Her work has been published in top journals such as Academy of Management Journal, The Leadership Quarterly and Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice. She has served as an ad-hoc reviewer for the Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice. Dr. Baker’s distinguish work earned her the Academy of Management Journal 2007 Best Paper Award.
Adrienne Newton

Congratulations to our Finance Chair, Adrienne Newton, on her graduation from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.).

FAST FACTS

1.9 Million
Out of the 25.9 million U.S. firms, 1.9 million are African American-owned.

9%
Of African American-owned firms offer Professional Scientific and Technical services

Find more information at: http://www.mبدا.gov/sites/default/files/FactSheet-AfricanAmerican-OwnedFirms.pdf

MORE NSBE SITES

NSBE National
http://www.nsbe.org
NSBE Region 3
NSBE Montgomery
http://www.nsbe-mae.org
NSBE of North Alabama
http://www.nsbe-northalabamae.com

Region III Leadership Conference

August 8-10, 2014

Eastman Lodge & Toy F. Reid Employee Center Kingsport, TN

Those who attended the Leadership conference experienced a transformational weekend; where their leadership skills were tested and strengthened to allow them to reach an optimal level of operational excellence!

This year’s RLC also provided the opportunity to network with other chapter leaders, Region III Executive Board, and Region III Professionals members.

The ceremony included a bit of comedy, but there was no denying the significance: For the first time in its history, the Navy promoted a woman on Tuesday to become a four-star admiral.

Surrounded by friends, family and peers, Adm. Michelle J. Howard was promoted to her new rank at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She’ll take over as the vice chief of naval operations, the No. 2 officer in the service. She is not only the first woman to hold the job, but the first African-American. Read More at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2014/07/01/adm-michelle-howard-becomes-first-four-star-woman-in-navy-history/
Tuskegee MITE / FASTREC Programs

At Tuskegee University, the College of Engineering, offers summer pre-college programs – MITE (Mentoring Into Engineering) and FASTREC (Freshman Accelerated Start-Up Training and Retention Engineering Curricula) to high school students completing 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, respectively, to prepare and motivate them to choose and enter college programs in engineering. MITE is offered to high school students completing 10th and 11th grades. FASTREC is offered to students who have graduated from high school. These programs have been ongoing for over forty years. Our goal this past summer has always addressed the need to increase the pool of historically under-represented, under-served, students who will be prepared to enter and complete post-secondary studies in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology, thus creating a diverse and globally competitive workforce.

Currently, MITE is a one-week program designed to introduce high school students to various aspects of engineering, and provide them with lessoned learned in preparing for success in college. The program includes laboratory demonstrations; several design projects, lectures on college admission, financial aid, cooperative education, career opportunities and field trips. A secondary role of the MITE program is to bring students to the campus to introduce various aspects of college life. Students participating in the program this year were able to spend time with faculty from each of the four departments within the college. They spent the entire day focusing on what each department consist of as well as participating in experiments. The students completed a bridge made out of Popsicle sticks in which they had to make a presentation to the graduate student in the NAVSEA Program and they also competed in an egg drop. The MITE students concluded the program by touring the Procter and Gamble facility in LaGrange, GA a battery facility. The students enjoyed watching and interacting with Alumni and employees of the company.

The FASTREC Program students are selected from high schools throughout the United States, based on their SAT or ACT scores and their high school. Up to seven semester credit hours may be earned towards the Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. In addition, presentations by industrial speakers and role models are provided. As an introduction to the demands of engineering, students participate in open-ended design, specific project implementation, and CAD/CAM/CAE (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing/Computer Aided Engineering) activities. These students engage in development activities for mobile technology developing applications for learning. In addition, cooperative education, orientation, presentations by industrial speakers and role models are provided for the summer session. FASTREC is recognized as a national model by the National Science Foundation and noted as a key strength of the CEAPS program. Additionally, the FASTREC Program provides steps for success in college and beyond.

For more information contact:
Department of Materials Science & Engineering
102 Chappie James Center
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088
Company Focus: Charles Williams & Associates

Charles Williams & Associates, Inc. is a minority owned company formed in 1996 to provide a full range of architectural services including design, project management and construction administration. With 20 years of prior experience, founder Charles E. Williams has successfully developed CWA, Inc. into an exceptional provider of professional services. Throughout the years CWA, Inc. has provided architectural services for multiple municipalities, school systems, transit system, colleges and universities, medical practices, religious facilities, and an array of private concerns. Today, the founding principles of trust and commitment remain evident in a team of talented professionals that render incomparable service with a uniquely inherent quality.

Charles Williams & Associates, Inc. understands the service of architecture as a means to an end. Design, in its simplest form, is providing a solution that best addresses programmatic needs. Charles Williams & Associates, Inc. embraces this principle by establishing a strong rapport with the client, carefully accessing both the client’s and user’s issues, and providing a high quality solution that produces a lasting structure exceeding both needs and desires. Realizing that trust is the core of establishing a strong rapport, indispensable in any relationship, CWA, Inc. continually works to, not only maintain, but strengthen that trust between architect and client. Trust is and always will be the founding principle of CWA, Inc. This high level of trust allows the client to freely communicate their issues, needs and desires with the architect. By carefully and thoroughly assessing all direct and indirect issues surrounding the project, the needs can be clearly identified allowing the architect to progress toward a solution.

Charles Williams & Associates, Inc. strives to provide solutions that clearly address client needs, desires, budget, and schedule in an aesthetic and environmentally responsible manner. As stated previously, architecture is a means to an end. The means; an intangible relationship established between architect and owner through trust and professionalism allowing a project to reach its full potential.

Current Charles Williams & Associates projects include but are not limited to:

- Birmingham City Fire Station #4
- Hudson K-8 School
- Powderly Library
- Greene County High School
- Avondale Library
- Glenn Oaks School
- Bessemer Recreation Center
- Selma High School
- Huffman High School
- Huffman High Phase II
- C.J. Donald School
- Birmingham City ADA Upgrades
Webinar:
So You Think You Want A PMP

As an aid to helping guide your decisions NSBE Birmingham will be offering a new webinar brown bag series.

The webinars will be offered over lunch to offer members the flexibility of dialing in to a conference bridge.

The first webinar in the series will be focused on PMP Certification and will be hosted on September 24, 2014 at 11:30AM. The conference bridge number and access code will be provided via email.

The webinar will cover certification requirements, training opportunities, Birmingham testing facilities, career benefits, and local PMI chapter details.

Invitations for the webinar will be sent to the NSBE Birmingham email list and posted on our chapter LinkedIn account and website.

Visit us at www.nsbebham.org

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/NSBE-Birmingham-Professional

DIVERSITY AWARENESS:
HISPANIC OR LATINO...
WHICH TERM IS MORE ACCEPTABLE

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins Sept. 15, is a time to recognize the cultural, historic, economic and social contributions made by Hispanic/Latin Americans living in the United States.

The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably to identify these groups but are not necessarily synonymous. They are the most widely used categorical labels for people of Hispanic and/or Latin American descent, and both carry varied meanings to different people.

Both Hispanic and Latino are acceptable terms to use, but understanding some differences could help in making distinctions.

The term Hispanic is an umbrella label for all Spanish speaking countries on the basis of language. It describes the language or culture that was previously under the Spanish colonial rule.

• The term is oftentimes criticized as a “government invention” to blend diverse groups of people, such as Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans, who separately represent unique cultural distinctions.

• According to many, the term emphasizes the European culture and ancestry and masks the African and indigenous cultures that are also part of history.

The term Latino pertains to more than 18 countries that make up Latin America. The term has certain political connotations. For instance, academics, activists, artists, and community workers often prefer to use the term because it originated within Latin American communities in the United States and refers to the diverse racial and ethnic heritages of Latin America.

• Some individuals find the term too ethnic, giving the perception that Latin Americans have had difficulty in assimilating in the American society.

• Latinos are from Latin America, but all Latin Americans are not Hispanics. For instance, Brazil is in Latin America and the official language is Portuguese.

• A Latino does not really have to speak Spanish, but must have originated from the countries of Latin America.
The kick-off meeting for our Future Engineers of America (FEA) program is September 14, 2014.

In our Future Engineers of America (FEA) Program students are exposed to different aspects of the engineering profession through monthly interactive sessions.

The innovative program allows students to participate in engineering based group activities that will help them determine which Engineering discipline best fits their goals and personality.

The program hosts 3-5 fully funded college trips and also offers the opportunity for students to volunteer in scheduled NSBE-Birmingham community service projects.

FEA meetings are held at the Alabama Corporate Headquarters. Topics that will be covered during the 2014-15 school year are shown below.

- Mechanical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering

Future Engineers of America is led by PCI chairs Julian Grant and Michael Gordon.

Julian Grant

Michael Gordon
Save the Dates:

- 34th Annual NSBE Scholarship Banquet (Birmingham, AL) (May 2, 2015); Speaker Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, President of Alabama State University
- Energy SIG Mixer (Charlotte, NC) (September 2014)
- Professional Development Conference (Phoenix, AZ) (October 2-5, 2014)

Give Us Your Feedback!

What can we do to improve your membership experience?
Please send comments and suggestions to our Programs/Membership Chair at membership@nsbebham.org

Contact us:

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