

DIVINE NINE: BLACK GREEK LETTER SORORITIES

SISTERS IN SERVICE – SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the former Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education and Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The first African American woman to earn tenure in the School of Education's history, Ladson-Billings is currently the President of the National Academy of Education. Ladson-Billings is known for her work on culturally relevant pedagogy as well as critical race theory applications to education. She has written 2 critically acclaimed books ("The Dreamkeepers: Successful teachers of African American children" and "Crossing over to Canaan: The journey of new teachers in diverse classrooms") as well as 7 other single authored or edited volumes. She has published more than 100 articles and book chapters. She currently holds 9 honorary degrees from colleges and universities in the US and throughout the world. She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for almost 54 years.



Ms. Gail Ford

Mrs. Gail Ford was born and raised in Detroit, MI as one of eleven siblings. Ford received her Masters of Science in Adult Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and her Bachelor's Degree in Applied Speech Communication from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI. Over the past eighteen years, Ford has worked in non-profits and post-secondary institutions to advocate for systematic changes to better align K-12 education programming with college-ready expectations. In 2019 Ford assumed the role of Director of the Precollege Enrichment Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Gail was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. in April 2005. In 2017 Ford was named by BRAVA Magazine a Woman 2 Watch for her exceptional work in the area of college access.



Attorney Signé Denny Mbainai

Representing Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Signé Mbainai is Asst. Corporation Counsel for Dane County. She is an experienced attorney currently practicing as a civil prosecutor. In her capacity as ACC, she advises multiple agencies within Dane County, local hospitals, and other community partners.

Signé is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She was a 2004 charter member of Eta Sigma Chapter at Chestnut Hill College in Pennsylvania and since joining has held several leadership positions within the organization. She also participates in other organizations, advancing the principles of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in all aspects of her community involvement. She sits on the Dane County Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Subcommittee, is vice president of Anana PTO, and consults with Crisis Stabilization workgroups. She is a wife and the mother of 2 children.



Ms. Wanda Anthony

Wanda Cobbs-Anthony was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. She attended UW-Oshkosh and later transferred to UW-Milwaukee where she obtained her BA in English. She received her degree, married Ruben and moved to Madison, WI, all in 1988. She worked 4 years as an advocate for children and families through the Urban League of Greater Madison flag ship program Project JAMMA, a partnership with MMSD; She worked for the late State Representative Annette Polly Williams for 8 years; and currently works for the WI Department of Revenue (DOR) where she held the position of Diversity Officer and currently holds the position of Human Resources Specialist-Senior. She has been at DOR for 15 Years. Wanda is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho, Sorority, Incorporated. She was initiated in August of 1980 as a charter member of the Theta Alpha Chapter on the campus of UW-Oshkosh. She honed her leadership skills in the Sorority on the Local, Regional and National level. Holding notable positions as Local Basileus (President) of the undergraduate and graduate chapters, Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator, Regional Syntakes (Director), and National Board Member. Wanda holds a certification from the UW Extension's Certified Public Manager program and a certification as an Ergonomic Coordinator. She loves spending time with family and volunteering for her community and for her church. She and Ruben have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.