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PRESS RELEASE

St. Louis, MO, July 14-18, 2019 – The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (NSPSK, Inc.) held its 96th Anniversary Conclave in the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, a highly recommended upscale hotel in the converted 1894 historic train station that featured a first rate restaurant and an amazing nightly 3D light show. NSPDK, Inc. is a prestigious professional organization established in 1923 as the premier professional organization of African American educators.

The local Alpha Nu Chapter hosted the 96th Anniversary Conclave under the leadership of Barbara Gwinn, Chapter President, and local chairs Cynthia Warren and Veola Martin along with the Midwest Region. Members from five regions in the contiguous states joined the distinguished, illustrious National President, Dr. Etta F. Carter, and her National Executive Council at the conference. The theme for this year was ***“Bold 21st Century Education: Cultural Relevance.”***

The phenomenal conference was also attended by NSPDK, Inc. Sorors, Anthropos (Affiliate group), family and friends who witnessed and experienced the extraordinary planning of events to support a major concern in education today - diversity. The Sorority business focused on the 3-point Y. E. S program (Youth, Education, and Service)

A key ***Pre-Conclave*** activity (free to the public) Saturday, July 13, 2019, sponsored in part by the Black Women’s Agenda, Inc. the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, Inc. The ***Health and Wellness Fair*** held July 13, 2019 which included Mental & Physical Wellness: Blood Pressure Screenings, Breast Cancer and Prostate Discussions, and an Alzheimer’s Skit and Physical Activities: Curvy Fitness, Slow Flow Yoga, Vinyasa Flow Yoga and Zumba. Each NSPDK, Inc. Conclave gives to ***Local Projects***, this year we awarded gift certificates. The recipients were Ms. Yvette A. Levy, Principal, Wilkinson Early Childhood Center, and Mr. Marvin Echols Jr., Principal, Educational Therapeutic Support @ Madison, Pre-K-8th Grade Center.

Sunday morning, July 14, 2019, ***Worship Service***, Cylint Praize Mime Ministry, St. Louis Youth Chapter formed at Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church expressed their love of God through the gifts and talents He has given them through the dynamics of mime under the direction of Rev. Allen Perkins. Rev. Kerri G. Harris Mack, guest minister gave a soul-stirring message, “Making the Best of a Bad Situation.” ***The Public Meeting*** was held from 3-5pm in the Grand Ballroom where members and guests were greeted by the Honorable Lydia Krewsom, Mayor, City of St. Louis, Dr. Kelvin Adams St. Louis Public School Superintendent, Mr. James Clark, Community Outreach Director, Better Family Life. Dr. Etta F. Carter paid tribute to individuals in the greater St. Louis area with presentations to St. Louis Changemakers, International Projects, and \$10,000 was presented to Africare, the NSPDK International Project, which supports the Maternal Waiting Home in Zambia, South Africa. Additionally, Citation and Achievement

Awards, and NAACP Awards were given. *An Evening with the Anthropolos*, the Men in our Lives, featured the sultry sounds of St. Louis' own Jazz and Blues Legends, The Love Jones Band.

Monday, July 15, 2019 9am-11am, the *Opening Ceremony* saluted the fifty-year members and a "Parade of Education Through the Decades," Chapters creatively and engagingly gave a glimpse of educational trends in the year they were chartered. Keynote speaker, DuEwa Frazier spoke on "Culturally Relevant Teaching." Seventeen *Professional Development Workshops and Leadership Institutes*, held from 1:30pm-5pm, focused on equipping educators with tools for classrooms centering on the Conclave theme. Workshops selected were effectively chosen to meet the varied needs of all students. *President's Reception*, 7pm-10pm, the Kings and Queens of NSPDK, Inc. promenaded to African drumbeats while Pinx Youth Dance Academy led a ceremonial procession. Blessings were given from Elders/Griots to guests in true "Wakanda" Black...to the Future style.

Tuesday, July 16, 2019, the *Membership Luncheon* recognized current Diamond, Ruby, Life, 25, and 50-year members. The luncheon also inducted 2019 Life, Ruby, and Diamond recipients. *The First Business Session* opened with the Conclave Griot requesting a blessing and approval from the Regional Elders to begin the 96th Anniversary Conclave. Sorors who served in the military received recognition with gifts and certificates. A total of \$455,622.00 had been awarded in local, regional, and national scholarships across the nation. A moment of silence was given for past national presidents: E. Lucille Minor, Marguerite McClelland, Della Oliver, Ardena Dixon, and Margaret Nelson Sorors.

Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 9am-11am, *Vital Issues Breakfast* began with greetings from Aja Owens, Councilwoman of St. Louis, 4th Ward who urged Sorors to "Rock What You Got!"

Keynote speaker, Ambassador Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook delivered a flaming message, "Keep Your Eyes Open." *Every Member Forum* followed with reflective question "Are You There Yet?"

Wednesday evening 7pm-10pm, *Gala and Awards Night* highlighted culturally relevant education during five generations as presented by the five regions. The Generations were: The Silent Generation, Baby Boomer Generation, Generation X, Generation Y and Next, Generation Z and Alpha. Each Region performed skits depicting educational trends, teachers, teaching, students, and current events from 1925-2025.

The close of the 96th Anniversary Conclave, Thursday, July 18, 2019, 7-10pm ushered in an evening of elegance with the *Calla Lily Awards Banquet* where The King Awards were presented to Mother and Son, Florence O. King and Gary King, NAACP Silver Life Awards and service awards to Outgoing Officers were given. A donation of \$10,000 was presented to Dr. Aguinagua, for the Sickle Cell Research Center at Meharry Medical Hospital, which is the National Project of NSPDK, Inc. The Conclave Choir gave musical selections celebrating the "year of the woman." Sandy Redd, powerful singer who appeared on The Voice, and Rhoda G, a St. Louis saxophonist, entertained guests.