The Hortense B. Perry Foundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Omega Chapter

2026 SALUTE TO WOMEN AWARDS CEREMONY

WOMEN OF VISION



Margaret Wilson Wright



Avery Tandy



Dr. Christine Cosby- Gaither



Caqueta King



Evon Smith



Shaun Spencer

2026

SEPT 20

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

MAUDE BROWN PORTER
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
3107 S. Crums Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40216

Pre-reception will be held Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST in the Stoddard Auditorium. Light refreshments will be served.

MISSION & PURPOSE

The Hortense B. Perry Foundation

The Hortense B. Perry Foundation, Inc. is committed to providing resources and services within the community with a focus on education, health, leadership development, economic empowerment, and the visual and performing arts. Our top priorities are:

education
health, and
economic empowerment

The Purpose of the foundation is to provide support in the execution of educational and social programs impacting the community of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, Kentucky

The Hortense B. Perry Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization in partnership with the Eta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®. Established in 1994, the foundation has provided thousands of dollars in support of our priorities with special emphasis on providing educational funds to high school students in the Louisville area. The scholarship investment ranges from $30,000 to $60,000 annually.

In addition to funding and supporting scholarships, the Foundation also sponsors several signature programs, including:

- Building Readers, Building Futures, which encourages elementary-aged youth to develop a love of reading through a read-in and a book giveaway that allows children to take home books of their own;
- Salute to Women and Emergent Leaders, which celebrates female entrepreneurs and impactful community leaders;
- LEAF/YLI, a leadership development program for middle school youth;
- Annual Derby Scholarship Brunch, an annual fundraiser and celebration of HBP scholarship recipients.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA), an international service organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was founded on a mission of five basic tenets that have remained unchanged since the sorority's inception. Our mission is:

- to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards,
- to promote unity and friendship among college women,
- to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature,
- to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind."

Salute to Women of Vision

The Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders evolved from the initiatives of our 2010-2014 International President, Carolyn House Stewart.

One of her five initiatives was titled Economic Security. Through this initiative, she envisioned the expansion of our current wealth building programs, which included the allocation of resources, home ownership, assets protection, estate planning, access to capital, and alleviating universal problems facing girls and women by supporting and empowering female owned businesses and urban enterprise zones.

Using her vision as a catalyst, the Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, decided to recognize and honor women for their contributions, determination, vision, and passion which has helped to shape and grow Louisville's businesses. Each year, the Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders honors women in the Louisville community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the corporate, government, academic, small business, and non-profit-sectors.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EMERGENT LEADERS



PROGRAM EMCEE

DeAndria Turner



DeAndria Turner is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and reporter at WLKY, where she's been telling impactful stories there since January 2024.

A proud Southern girl from Gautier, Mississippi, where the sweet tea is strong and the hospitality runs deep, DeAndria brings heart, authenticity, and purpose to every story she tells.

Before making her mark in Louisville, she reported in Hartford, Connecticut, and Huntsville, Alabama, where she served as the chief bureau reporter for the Shoals area.

DeAndria is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where she earned her degree in Broadcast Journalism with minors in African American Studies and English. She is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., crossing Theta Psi in Fall 2017.

When she's not chasing a story, you can find her catching up on her favorite shows or exploring new restaurants around the city.

At her core, DeAndria believes storytelling has the power to create change, and she's committed to using her voice to uplift, inform, and inspire.

Salute to Women of Vision

PROGRAM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Christie McCravy, Hortense B. Perry Foundation, President
Desiree Bush, Eta Omega Chapter, President

PRAYER
Eta Omega Chapter, Chaplain

HISTORY OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SIGNATURE PROGRAM
Dr. Ronnita Usher, Eta Omega Chapter, Program Chairman
Ashley Rollins, Eta Omega Chapter, Program Co-Chairman

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EMERGENT LEADERS RECIPIENT - DR. CHRISTINE COSBY-GAITHER
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EMERGENT LEADERS RECIPIENT - CAQUETA KING
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EMERGENT LEADERS RECIPIENT - EVON SMITH
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EMERGENT LEADERS RECIPIENT - SHAUN SPENCER
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH AWARD - AVERY TANDY
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELMER LUCILLE ALLEN LIFETIME ACHIEVER AWARD - MARGARET WILSON TAYLOR
DeAndria Turner, Emcee

CLOSING REMARKS
Christie McCravy, Hortense B. Perry Foundation, President
Dr. Mary Stoddard, Hortense B. Perry Foundation, Vice President



LIFETIME ACHIEVER AWARD

MARGARET WILSON WRIGHT

Margaret Wilson Wright is a Diamond Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and one of Louisville's most cherished educators and community leaders. She began her career as an elementary school teacher in 1954, spending twenty years in the classroom before serving Jefferson County Public Schools as a mentor, principal, and Head Start director. Her impact was so profound that the district called her out of retirement twice to lead schools through periods of transition—a testament to the trust and confidence she inspired throughout her career.

Rooted in a lifelong faith at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Margaret has been an equally transformative force in Catholic education. She served on the Catholic School Board, was a founding principal of All Saints Academy, and in 2010 became a founding board member of Nativity Academy, a Catholic school for students of color in West Louisville. As the only African American Catholic woman on the board, she ensured the community's children were always the priority, and in 2025 she was inducted into the Nativity Hall of Fame in recognition of her enduring leadership. She also served on the Board of Multicultural Ministries for the Archdiocese of Louisville, where she taught Black Catholic history.

A member of Eta Omega Chapter since 1954, Margaret organized the incorporation of the Hortense B. Perry Foundation and served as its first president. In 1979, she founded the "Misty Sophisties," a social club that prepared high school seniors for life on newly integrated college campuses and helped them secure scholarships for higher education.

Now 95 years old, she remains a passionate advocate for education, social justice, and equality for women—a living embodiment of Alpha Kappa Alpha's call to service and commitment to serving all mankind.



EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH AWARD

AVERY TANDY

Avery Tandy is a recent graduate of duPont Manual High School in Louisville, Kentucky, where she distinguished herself as a scholar, servant leader, and community advocate. She maintained a 4.3 weighted GPA and earned numerous academic honors, including the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, the Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, and the University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award.

Avery served as Teen President of the Derby City Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and as President of duPont Manual's Black Student Union, where she expanded membership to more than 100 students. She was also an active member of the National Honor Society, the Jefferson County Public Schools Student Advisory Board, the duPont Manual Culture and Climate Committee, and Y-Club. A dedicated athlete, Avery competed with the MidAmerica Volleyball Association and completed more than 80 hours of community service.

This fall, Avery will attend Vanderbilt University as a Chancellor's Scholar, a distinction reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and service. She plans to major in Psychology with dual minors in Business and Spanish and ultimately hopes to establish her own clinical psychology practice.



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

DR. CHRISTINE COSBY-GAITHER

Dr. Christine Cosby-Gaither is an educator, serial entrepreneur, stroke survivor, and sought-after national speaker dedicated to advancing Black health equity. She is the Founder and Executive Director of A Stroke of Grace, an award-winning nonprofit organization that supports Black stroke survivors and their families across the country through education, advocacy, and community support.

After surviving a life-changing stroke in 2019, she turned her pain into purpose by creating trauma-informed resources and leading large-scale community festivals focused on stroke prevention and awareness. She currently serves as the Director of Urban Health Equity at Simmons College of Kentucky, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Dr. Cosby-Gaither is the author of Beyond the Stroke: A Survivor's Quest for Courage and contributed the chapter "Strength and Courage" in the book Coaching Gurus. She also contributed to the 2024 Guideline for the Primary Prevention of Stroke, published by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

She serves on the American Heart Association's national Brain Health Task Force, the Kentucky Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force, and several patient-focused organizations. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she is married to Langston and is the proud mother of two daughters, MaLay and Zuri.



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

CAQUETA KING

Caqueta King is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, mentor, and community trailblazer whose life reflects resilience, determination, and service. Born to a teenage mother and becoming a mother herself at age 16, she transformed personal challenges into motivation, building a life dedicated to empowering others and creating opportunities within her community.

She is the founder and owner of Reign Events, a family-owned full-service event design company. After leaving corporate America in 2018 to pursue her passion full-time, she grew the business from a modest inventory into a thriving company known for excellence, creativity, and innovation. In 2020, Reign Events was recognized as Black-Owned Event Planner of the Year.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Caqueta has established herself as a catalyst for community change. She founded Loving Others Through Giving (LOTG), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women, young mothers, children, and families through outreach, education, and empowerment initiatives. Through LOTG, she has led community health fairs, HIV testing events, school supply drives, resource distributions, and programs that have served hundreds of families throughout Louisville.

A visionary leader, Caqueta founded Ladies of the Gridiron, one of the area's pioneering women's and girls' flag football programs, creating opportunities for mentorship, teamwork, healthy living, and community engagement. She later launched the Shut Up and Vote Campaign to promote voter registration and civic participation within underserved communities, encouraging citizens to use their voices and exercise their right to vote.

Continuing her commitment to uplifting others, Caqueta founded TEEN MOM, a mentoring and empowerment program for teenage mothers, and launched I Am the Table, an initiative that celebrates, connects, and elevates women entrepreneurs throughout the community.

Her contributions have earned numerous honors, including the Black Girls Rock Humanitarian Award and the proclamation of July 29 as LOTG Day in Louisville, Kentucky. Through entrepreneurship, philanthropy, advocacy, and mentorship, Caqueta King continues to leave a lasting legacy of service, leadership, and community transformation.



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

EVON SMITH

Evon Smith leads a community development corporation committed to elevating the entire city through commercial development growth in West Louisville. OneWest was formed in 2014 by a diverse group of professionals in Leadership Louisville's Bingham Fellows Program who believed that the clearest path to an economic renaissance in west Louisville was an influx of private, philanthropic, and public capital.

She joined OneWest in 2018 as President and CEO. Before becoming President and CEO, Smith spent more than 20 years in real estate development. Her work focuses on implementing of OneWest's five-year strategic plan, which includes commercial and mixed-use development efforts beginning at the 18th Street and West Broadway corridor. Continuing the work that the OneWest board and volunteers have already begun, Smith builds relationships with government, nonprofit, business, and community organizations and acts as an advocate for responsible investments, financial commitments, and policies that impact west Louisville.

Smith is a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., and completed executive leadership programs at Duke University and Harvard University.



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

SHAUN SPENCER

Shaun Spencer is the President and Lead Human Resources Consultant of Trimen Solutions, LLC, a company she founded in 2008. Trimen Solutions provides services through three divisions: Human Resources and Employee Training, Staffing, and recently added Printing Services under My HUB Printing.

Prior to launching Trimen, Ms. Spencer developed onboarding and hiring processes for major franchise organizations, created employee benefit plan procedures implemented nationwide, established EEO compliance policies, recruited and placed candidates, and developed employee handbooks and job descriptions for businesses across a variety of industries. Under her leadership, Trimen Solutions received the Louisville Defender Business Achievement Award in 2009, was nominated for the Tri-State Minority Supplier Development Council's Minority Supplier of the Year Award in 2017, and was recognized by the Louisville Independent Business Alliance as a West Louisville Trailblazer in 2023.

In addition to decades of human resources expertise, Ms. Spencer brings extensive experience in social services, management, and restaurant operations. In response to client feedback, she launched the PerfectPath Program in 2020, designed to support the employment, housing, and personal development needs of young adults ages 18–24.

A respected trainer and speaker, Ms. Spencer has delivered numerous workshops and presentations for individuals, entrepreneurs, and business owners. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she conducted webinars for Fayette County Public Schools, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Kentucky Small Business Development Center, and the Louisville Independent Business Alliance. Her presentations have included topics such as human resources best practices, job readiness, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. She has also presented for the Louisville Urban League Career Expo and Louisville Metro Government's entrepreneurship initiatives.

Ms. Spencer is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the Louisville Society for Human Resource Management (LSHRM), and the American Staffing Association. She serves on the boards of Wibby's Foundation, Inc., the Greater Louisville University of Kentucky Alumni Club, Buy Local Louisville Foundation, and Louisville Grows. She is the Founder and President Emeritus of the West Louisville Dream Team and is also recognized as a Liv In Lou City Champ.
Her previous leadership and community service roles include Vice President of Chapter Administration and Chair of the Networking and Placement Committee for LSHRM, committee leadership with the Tri-State Minority Supplier Development Council, membership on the Economic Development Committee of the Southwest Dream Team, and board service with the Louisville Independent Business Alliance.

Ms. Spencer's honors include the Sam Watkins Jr. Light the Way Entrepreneurial Award, the Zeta Phi Beta Community Service Award, and the ECHO (Exploited Children's Health Organization) Engel Heart Award.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Kentucky and maintains senior-level human resources certifications from both the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI) and SHRM. She is also a Certified Staffing Professional (CSP) through the American Staffing Association.

Salute to Women of Vision

2026 RECIPIENTS



MARGARET WILSON WRIGHT
LIFETIME ACHIEVER AWARD



AVERY TANDY
EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH AWARD



DR. CHRISTINE COSBY- GAITHER
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



CAQUETA KING
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



EVON SMITH
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



SHAUN SPENCER
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Past Recipients

* - Lifetime Achiever

** - Spalding Doctoral Student

2012
Judge Erica Williams *
Tangy Hunter-Hughes
Tawana Hughes
Kimberly Milton-Jenkins
Tierra Turner (Kavanaugh Wayne)

2013
Alice Houston *
Paula McCraney
Peggy Hankins
Deleanor Manson
Rhonda Branch

2014
Dr. Rita Greer *
Joy Watkins
Rose Walton
Lynn Reynolds
Lynn Johnson
Karen Krigger, MD
Pamela Fulton Broaddus
Jennifer Adams-Tucker

2015
Dawne Gee *
Kirstie Crenshaw **
Benolia Bacon
Saretha Young
Susan Robinson
Lisa Houston

2016
Elmer Lucille Allen *
Khatina Brunson **
Sylvia Arnett
LaShonda Threets

2017
Diane Porter *
Candice Johnson **
Terra Leavell
Maralyn Marables

2018
Judge Denise Clayton *
Dr. Tish Brookins **
Sonja Grey
Sharis Lattimore

2019
Emma Mae Metcalf *
Jabani Bennett **
Lameca Mickens
Stephanie Lackey
Dr. Susan (Sue) Davis

2020
Sadiqa Reynolds *
Janelle Rae **
Brenda Osborne, MD
Gerina Whethers
Eboni Edwards

2022
Yvette Gentry *
Sytisha Claycomb
Kymberly Rice
Denise Sears
Kathy Pleasant
Harlina Trumbo
Addie Brownell

2023
Lonnie Ali *
Dr. Paula McCraney
Tawana Bain
Michele Harbin
JoAnn James
Dr. Teresa Walker
Diane Whitlock

2024
Dr. Laura Douglas *
Mattie Jones
Jameelah Henderson
Jasmine Watkins
Dr. Lamesa Marks-Johns
Nachand Hyde Trabue

2025
Jocelyn Clayborn
Wilma Westfield Clayborn
Yolanda Graham Green
Rev. Tonya M. Triplett

Salute to Women of Vision

THANK YOU

The committee chairs for the Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders want to take this opportunity to send out a huge thank you to our committee members and to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to help plan, organize and oversee this event. Your contribution to the whole reflects a true unified effort. We also extend a heartfelt expression of gratitude to the Hortense B. Perry Foundation Leadership Team, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Omega chapter members, and volunteers, and our program emcee.

Hortense B. Perry Foundation Website:
https://www.hortensebperry.com

DONATE

Scan QR code to make a donation.





