

The GRIOT

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Colorado State University

Football Saturday with GPS

Danielle McConnell

On October 15th, GPS had the opportunity to attend their first college football game accompanied by the Destination Leaders and of course a stadium full of Ram fans.

The kids were overwhelmed with excitement as they entered the stadium, but even more so after realizing they would have a chance to take part in the team getting ready to hit the field.

All the kids stared in amazement as they watched the Colorado State football team hype themselves up, along with the Destinations Leaders who intensified the moment.

There wasn't a kid in the stadium who was missing a smile that day, which is exactly the goal the Black/African American Cultural Center had hoped for.

"It was great to see the kids' faces light up as they shook hands with the players," says

Garrett Hayes, one of the GPS leaders in attendance that day.

This program focuses on inspiring the kids in the Fort Collins community to express themselves outside of the classroom.

There is hope that a sense of community, family, or friendship can be established through relationships that are built.

Whether the GPS leaders inspire the kids or open the door for communication and mentorship, the Black/African American Cultural Center has created a platform for something amazing.



GPS Travelers

"It was great to see the kids faces light up as they shook hands with the players"– Garrett Hayes

Inside this issue

<i>Football Saturday with GPS</i>	1
<i>African American Women Dedicated to Excellence</i>	2
<i>African American Men Dedicated to Excellence</i>	3
<i>I Choose– Kimberly Ford</i>	5
<i>Resources</i>	6
<i>November Calendar</i>	7



GPS Travelers

African American Women Dedicated to Excellence

Alexandria Grant

African American Women Dedicated to Excellence (AAWDE) is a First Year Peer Mentoring group under Orientation and Transition Programs in collaboration with the Black/African American Cultural Center.

This group is designed to bring together first year African American female students in a small group setting which allows them to form strong bonds, enhance personal interactions, and engage in dialogue that facilitates growth and development.

AAWDE meets once weekly during the Fall semester over breakfast allowing the young women to have the space and opportunity to break bread together.

Within this group, ladies are able to discuss topics that pertain to their experiences on and beyond campus, and share models of success without the intrusion of male voice.

Along with the weekly sessions, we also have monthly gatherings outside of the group. Just to name a few, we have a shopping day, a spa day and a networking dinner planned for the young women this year.

My name is Alexandria Grant and I am a junior Human Development and Family Studies major, Spanish minor. I have had the privilege of being the student mentor for AAWDE for the past two years.

This group has a special place in my heart because I was also in the group my first year here at Colorado State. This group helped me to find who I am, and it also gave me the space to hear the experiences of other young Black women on campus. I had such a great experience in the group that I was asked to head the group by Mrs. Bridgette Johnson, the group's staff mentor.

The two of us have vowed to make the group as special and authentic as possible. I believe you should always give back what is given to you. I was given a lot from the group, and I want the young women to have the same opportunities in AAWDE. I want to create that space for them to be as open as possible with their peers.



African American Women Dedicated to Excellence group(missing Maya Lovelace)

This group is led by my passion for understanding and engaging with people to enhance personal relationships. Every encounter I have with the girls allows me to grow closer with them. It allows them to look up to myself as well as Mrs. Bridgette for whatever they may need throughout their journey here at Colorado State.

We pose as valuable resources for the girls regarding academics, involvement, and life advice. We are a small but mighty village of young women helping to heal each other through our weekly dialogue. This ultimately is helping us to discover who we are, and to define success individually as we see fit.



African American Men Dedicated to Excellence

Gregory Shields

There is no one on the face of the planet that can say they became successful with no help. **Everybody** has had someone they look to during times of strife and struggle; even during times of exuberance and excellence.

Whether you're at a point in your life where you are experiencing more independence than you ever have, there is never a time in life where you can't use a support system.

In an effort to promote both personal and academic excellence, the Black/African American Cultural Center here at Colorado State University has implemented the First-Year Mentoring Program in collaboration with

Orientation and Transition Programs

ensure students have a successful and stress-free transition to college.

In order to establish immediate connections between mentees and mentors, groups were divided based on identities and interests.

As the mentor for the first year, African-American Men group, I feel it is pivotal as African-American Men to eradicate stereotypes and generalizations instilled both on campus and in society by exceeding all expectations.

Being one of the smallest demographic populations on campus, there is a need for us to be a means of support and

encouragement for each other.

This program is not the biggest commitment, but is nevertheless a tool that can be utilized to make connections all over campus with students and staff alike and make individuals more efficient students.

I cordially invite all motivated African-American men who strive for excellence and have goals to be successful in the world to join us in the First-Year Mentoring Program and begin making a difference.

*Meetings are every **Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** in the **Black/African-American Cultural Center.**



African-American Men Dedicated to Excellence

3-on-3 UMC Basketball Tournament Reflection

Marie Bluitt

United Men of Color hosts a 3 on 3 tournament annually. Despite a couple minor setbacks, overall the tournament was a success.

Despite, the fact that my team did not win, I think all of the teams that participated really put their heart and soul into these games. It was interesting to see the many different personalities that arose when face to face with an opponent, down by two and there is one minute left on the clock...the drive, the draw, the dish, nothing but...swish! Thanks to my teammates, who all played their hearts out, we won one game in our series.

I decided to participate in the event simply because I love the game of basketball and once I had a team there was no question

about whether or not I was going to play.

My favorite part about this event besides playing was getting to represent women ball players.

It felt great when my team, consisting of two women ball players, matched up and beat an all men's team. I also really enjoyed the fact that players from Denver came down to participate. It really brought a vast array of talents and skills that helped diversify the teams and make the event more competitive. UMC keep up the good work! I really enjoyed myself and I think a lot of people can say the same.



Break The Stage Amplified– 2011

Jesus Ornelas

This November 19th Black Student Alliance presents the 18th Annual Hip Hop Explosion “Amplified” Step Show. This is the longest running and largest step show in Colorado. This step show brings together Divine Nine, Latino and Multicultural sororities and fraternities.

Last year comedian/host Doug Williams made a remark where he mentioned that this was one of the most diverse step shows he has ever been a part of.

The step show this year will feature many different acts aside from the traditional contenders of steppers. Bringing in many surprises with different forms of art like dance and singing that has never been seen before in the show.

BSA is excited to give the participants people the recognition they deserve. Last year's winners, Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will be seeking to defend their titles as they both go for the three peat victory.

Ticket Prices this year will be \$12 at CSUtix.com and \$16 at the door, on the day of the event. Don't forget about the after party as well. The after party will be held at Washington's Bar and will run from 9:00pm to 2am and will be \$5 for 21 and up and \$10 for Under 21.

BSA also will be holding a FREE comedy show on November 18th featuring Benji Brown. This will be held in the Commons in the basement of the Lory Student Center at 7pm sharp!

Creative Corner

I Choose—Kimberly Ford

Let me write this piece.
This piece ... to lift people off their
feet... to give them hope...

If my words are heard,
Then let them relieve.

I know some may not think it will
and maybe it won't.

Let them tell stories that serve
justice,

But let this PEACE be a part of me,
Of the community...

My words aren't for just-US...
They are for the ones that are
locked up,

Let us help each other find a
PIECE...

The humans that are too worried
about surviving they can't afford to
give a fuck because even caring
seems to cost too much.

That moves us to feel complete.
Truth is what I seek.

I am trying to look beneath the
surface...in between the lines...
I found the sun so I reach for the
sky.

My words are not enough...

But they serve some venue...
Help me spew,

Please let me tell my view,
Let me pursue...

Help me re-do the silence has been
overdue...

The open ears and hearts that show
what human connection can do.

I hope to transform ideas, spark
something new. This is the life... I
choose.

Spread love instead of hate,
We once were on a date but I
realized we don't relate...



Colorado State University

Join the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration!

Spoken Word contest

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream...

Share with us your dream in your **OWN** words!

All entries must contain the following information on the back of the page:

- Student Name
 - Home/Cell phone number
 - Email address
-

Essays will be judged on the following basis:

- ♦ BEAUTY, POWER, EDUCATION, or ENTERTAINMENT
- ♦ MESSAGE & INTEREST
- ♦ TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE
- ♦ RHYME and/or METER
- ♦ ASSONANCE and ALLITERATION
- ♦ FORM & FLOW
- ♦ CHOICE OF WORDS & READABILITY
- ♦ OVERALL IMPACT
- ♦ ORIGINALITY
- ♦ POLISH & EXPERTISE

Entries are due in the Black/African American Cultural Center, Lory Student Center Room 204, on Wednesday November 16 by 5:00 p.m. Auditions will be held on Thursday November 17th at Cocoa Ole (646 S College Ave) in partnership with Determination at 6:00 p.m. Winner will be award the opportunity to speak at the Dr Martin Luther King Jr Community Celebration on January 16th at Colorado State University!



Colorado State University

**BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**

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NOVEMBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3 Leadership Development Institute @ 3	4	5 GPS @10
6	7	8	9 President's Council @ 12	10 Leadership Development Institute @ 3	11	12
13	14	15	16 Rites of passage @ 6 "Manging your stress"	17 Leadership Development Institute @3 — Determined Nation Spoken word @ 6	18	19 Break the Stage: Amplified @ 7
20	21 Thanksgiving Break	22 Thanksgiving Break	23 Thanksgiving Break	24 Thanksgiving break	25 Thanksgiving Break	26
27	28	29	30 Donald Wilson Mentoring program @ 3 — Bowling night @ Chippers Lanes @ 9			