



# THE LEARNING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DONCARES OF PHILADELPHIA

# ACADEMY POST

Photo courtesy of Brandon C. Ballard

## Mentorship Wins in North Philly

Starting in September 2017, DonCARES Mentor Brittani Canty and her mentee Kat Geiger began their weekly sessions at the U School in North Philly. Kat is an intelligent and zealous Senior at Principal Neil Geyette's Innovative High School at 7th and Norris Streets in North Philadelphia. Her mentor Brittani is an honors student at Temple University. Both young women are in two different places in their lives but both share a common goal which is to get an education.

"We're like the same person." Brittani said to President Donovan Forrest after her first meeting Kat on a sweltering late Summer day. "Yeah, I know... It's kind of funny how things work out. You two will be great!" Forrest exclaimed. Since their becoming a match, the two scholars have grown to become sisters.

"Brittani is great!" Kat expressed when she was asked about her relationship with Brittani. Last year President Donovan Forrest worked with Kat as her writing tutor. "I feel like we had a decent relationship as tutor and tutee last school year. It was when Kat asked me how she should go about getting a date to her junior prom that I realized something had to change. I was clueless..." Forrest remembers while laughing. "I met Brittani a few weeks later and decided from that moment that it was better for our young women mentees to be matched with our women mentors. It makes sense because I had no idea how to give advice on junior prom. I barely went myself."

Both Brittani and Donovan are excited to see Kat take her initial steps in applying for college. "Wherever she decides to go for her college education we will be here to support her all the way. Kat is like a little sister to both of us and we're glad to be sources of support." Forrest said regarding both he and Brittani's relationship with their mentee.



Photo courtesy of Brandon C. Ballard

## Alpha Speaks 10/13/17

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In late September, we had the pleasure of inviting the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Pi Rho Chapter to the U School. The men talked to our young men about their fraternity, college, and conflict resolution. In addition, they also taught a few of the young men at the U School how to tie neckties.

"Sadly enough, there are teenagers killing teenagers in our city. When I heard about the sixteen-year-old who gunned down two of his high school aged contemporaries in South Philly I was appalled." Forrest said. "I felt like there were adults that failed that sixteen-year-old. That's why conversations like the ones we hold on a bi-monthly basis with our young men are crucial. We need to teach our young men conflict resolution."

During the panel discussion with Alpha Phi Alpha one of the U School students asked about dealing with conflicts in school and in his neighborhood. "You say you're an Alpha Male. So, what do you do if someone disrespects you?" The sixteen-year-old student asked Pi Rho Alpha Laurent- a musician and well-respected figure on Temple University's diverse campus.

"You have to understand the consequences of your actions. Think about if you would want your mother to see you fighting someone on camera. As yourself: Is it really worth it? As a member of a fraternity, I represent something bigger than myself. When I make decisions, I have to take that all into account." he responded to the young man's question.

Bringing the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Pi Rho Chapter was an initiative that President Donovan Forrest thought of during the Summer. "Personally, I wanted to expose our male students to something different yet respectable. You never know, one of our students may become an Alpha one day."

Forrest says that one of his favorite things about North Philadelphia is the amount of hidden talent. "Our kids deserve endless opportunity and by bringing organizations into the U School where they spend a majority of their time I hope they'll feel inspired and envision the future they so rightly deserve."



Photo courtesy of Brandon C. Ballard

# SALT Conversations 11/3/ 2017)

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On November 3, 2017, the ladies of DonCARES of Philadelphia in conjunction with the women of the National Council of Negro Women Temple Section hosted our second SALT Conversation. Our SALT Conversation is a women's only discussion on identity, self-worth, and the importance of having a vision.

The meaning of the name SALT Conversation is biblical in origin. Being described by someone as 'the salt of the earth' is quite a compliment...it means that you are a person of great worth and reliability. During our women's only discussions, we hope to increase female students' awareness of their own importance, self-worth, and the importance of having a vision for themselves.

Among our college student guests were PR professionals, civil rights activists, make-up artists, and spiritual leaders. Our women's only conversations are to give female students at the U School the opportunity to connect with college students who were just in their shoes a few years ago. We provide an open space for young women to discuss current events, aspirations, and relationships. We believe the future and self-esteem of our young women are important to their future success. "If we can help them understand their worth during our SALT Conversations and teach our young men how to respect them during our men's conversations we believe we have done our job." DonCARES Founder Donovan Forrest says.



Photo courtesy of Brandon C. Ballard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MILLENNIAL SPEAKERS  
EVENT  
(PANEL DISCUSSION)

NOVEMBER 17, 2017



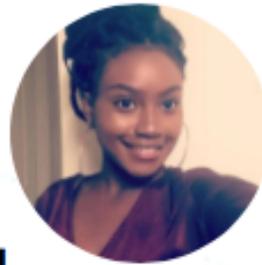
Presents:

# MILLENNIAL SPEAKERS EVENT

NOV. 17, 2017  
12 PM

THE U SCHOOL  
2000 N. 7TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122

*Opportunities for U School Students to connect with various professionals, business owners, college graduates, and entrepreneurs!*



**Kiara Lee**  
*Host of Premiere Radio at Temple University*



**Mark Beckham**  
*Founder/Owner/Manager at Enlighten Visions Management*



**Briara Lowery**  
*Founder and Director of The Girls Room*



**Davone McCord**  
*Founder & Creative Director of Vaughn Clothing*



**Tierra Jones**  
*Founder and CEO of A.T.T.R.A.C.T Philly*



**Lavon Howard**  
*Founder and Director of Path to Greatness*



*Moderated by Brandon C. Ballard*



*Sounds by Janean Monroe  
AKA Kreate.Klounds*



*Spoken Word by  
Ciara Chantelle*



**JoVon Hill**  
*Founder of Urban College Planning*

# BECOME A MENTOR!

Are you a college student of color and interested in mentoring youth in grades 9-12 in North Philadelphia?

If so, email us ([Cares.phila@gmail.com](mailto:Cares.phila@gmail.com)) your completed mentor application and your resume and an organizational director will schedule you for an interview.

Applications can be found on our website ([doncaresphila.org](http://doncaresphila.org)) under volunteer opportunities.



## OUR MISSION:

To act as positive role-models who will promote education as an important aspect of self-advancement to inner-city youth while countering the false perceptions made against us by ardently working to improve ourselves through education, service, fellowship, self-appreciation, and understanding of one another.