

## The Tassel: July 2014/Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund

Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund (CHASF) [ftriggs@cha-scholarshipfund.org]

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**To:** [sjohnston@tueforumct.org](mailto:sjohnston@tueforumct.org)

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July 2014



# The Tassel

## West Virginia State University President to give keynote address at 31st Annual Awards Ceremony

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The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund 31st Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony will feature the President of West Virginia State University, Dr. Brian Hemphill as the keynote speaker. The program will start at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 West Sugar Creek Rd. in Charlotte.



Dr. Brian Hemphill.

Other highlights include over a dozen special recognitions including the Trailblazer Award and CHASF Student of the Year. A light dinner reception will follow the ceremony. For more information, please contact Millard McCluney at 704-336-5782.

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[CHASF Video](#)

## SAVE THE DATE:

The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund is excited to announce the following event:

**The Annual Founder's Breakfast hosted by John T.Crawford**, on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

**Please**

from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. This year fundraiser will feature Keynote Speaker Dr. Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor of UNC-Charlotte and Alumni Speaker Dr. LaToya Walker, M.D. The event returns to the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3400 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte. For information on sponsorships, please contact Faith Triggs at 704-572-7987.

**Please  
consider  
CHASF as  
part of your  
estate  
planning!**

## Summer Workshop Series provide Life skills Training for Scholars





CHASF Scholars engage in a life-skills exercise led by Facilitators Kristy Womack & Jeremy Smith with "Liberation for the Next Generation."

Over 70 Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund recipients participated in several June enrichment workshops to kick-off the summer series of life-skills sessions designed to enhance their readiness for college life. This year's program, "On Track for Success," offered customized workshops for freshmen and sophomore students with a separate session targeting juniors and seniors. In addition to team-building exercises, participants learned the value of discipline, problem-solving, and how to navigate college life.

The series will continue throughout the summer with over a dozen options for participants including "A Day in the Life at Belk" (focusing on corporate culture and appropriate attire," The Art of Public Speaking with Professional Development Coach Peter Popovich, SMART Goal Setting, financial aid, time management, budgeting, networking, 21st century careers and social media.

The workshops are coordinated in partnership with The Foundation For The Carolinas and the Charlotte Housing Authority.

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***Annual Alumni BBQ for CHASF Family***  
***The 2014 CHASF Alumni Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 19 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at PAL (Police Activities League), 812 Oak Lawn Ave. in Charlotte. The event is open to CHASF Alumni and current scholars. To RSVP, join a committee or volunteer, please contact: Sheila Weaver at [tailormde2@hotmail.com](mailto:tailormde2@hotmail.com).***

## CHASF Alumni Profile: Albert "AB" Blake



"AB" Blake

**Name:** Albert "AB" Bennie Roberts Blake. Most people think the 'B' in my nickname is for Blake, but it's actually for my middle name Bennie.

**CHASF class of:** 1989

**College or vocational institution:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. I also received a Master of Science in Administration - Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Certificate of Completion - National Resource and Security Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University.

**Job/Career:** I started my federal service career at Fort Bragg, NC as an Engineering Intern and was later promoted to Project Manager. I left federal service for a few years to serve at the state level where I became the Regional Facility Maintenance Director at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, NC. I then returned to federal service when I accepted the position of Regional Chief of Engineering Services at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC.

From there I left North Carolina to accept my present position where I am a General Engineering Program Manager for Washington Headquarters Services at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. I was recently given the opportunity to do a voluntary twelve-month international detail assignment in the Middle East as a Base Installation Manager where I was oversaw the closure of the military bases in Tikrit and Besmaya, Iraq.

**Favorite CHASF memory:** I have several fond CHASF memories; it's really hard to say I have just one. I really enjoy CHASF celebrations, ceremonies and get-togethers. However, I would have to say one of my most memorable CHASF moments was when I graduated from NC A&T University, because I then became the first and only in my family to earn a college degree.

**Who do you admire most and why?** I greatly admire Phil Tappy, who has been my mentor and friend for over 30 years. John Crawford introduced us while I was in high school. I will always remember our first meeting - it was at the Burger King at the corner of Beatties Ford Road and Interstate 85. Phil has been like a dad to me. The closeness of our relationship is such that my wife and I chose Philip for our son's middle name. Phil is a humble, loving, kind, generous, and dependable family-centered man with great business sense. He believes in community involvement, giving not only his money but more importantly his time and talent in volunteering to meet the needs of others. This is a principle part of his character I deeply admire. His family's commitment to the CHASF is tremendous and is evident in the support they've personally shown me and my family.

**What's your favorite food?** I really enjoy Caribbean and Indian (vegetarian) cuisine.

**What type of music do you like?** Gospel, Jazz and Classical

**What's your favorite movie or TV show?** I do not watch many movies, so I can't say I have a favorite. I also don't watch a lot of television. However, when I do, I watch the Home & Garden Channel (HGTV). I like several of their shows: Income Property, House Hunters, House Hunters International and Love It or List It to name a few. I enjoy real estate and am intrigued by the various home architectures, locations and renovation transformations.

**What's the last good book you read?** From the Hood to the Hill: A Story of Overcoming by Barry C. Black. This book is the author's autobiography about his life's journey from the ghettos of Baltimore, MD - surrounded "by overwhelming poverty and discouragement and death-bound adults who were enslaved ... by alcohol and drugs" - to presently being the first African-American and first Seventh-Day Adventist Chaplain of the United States Senate. The central theme of this book is how his faith and personal relationship with God brought him through the many obstacles and challenges he's encountered along life's way. The many personal parallels between our stories endeared this book to me.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?** One day I hope to visit the continent of Africa.

**Where do you volunteer?** I volunteer with the Achievement Academy, which is a youth mentorship program at my church (Community Praise Center, Alexandria, VA.) I tutor children of all ages in math and the sciences. I can personally attest to the major difference adult mentorship can make in the life of a child. During my formative years I struggled with math. One day after school at Double Oaks Elementary I reluctantly approached my math teacher, Mrs. Grier, and asked her to assist me with solving a math problem. She enthusiastically tutored me and continued to encourage me. As a result of her "showing [this] man how to fish" it sparked my interest in math and the sciences, which ultimately led me to become a Mechanical Engineer. Just as she did for me, I now volunteer to spark confidence in other young minds.

**What are your favorite hobbies?** I enjoy playing golf and bowling.

**Do you have a pet (name and kind)?** We have a smooth short-haired, black &

tan miniature dachshund named Pepper. She is an affectionate, well-behaved, fun-loving, charismatic member of the family.

**What do you hope to achieve over the next 5 - 10 years?** I would ultimately like to obtain a position with an international government organization working in some nation-building capacity overseas. I think it would be a great once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and my family to live abroad. With twenty-plus years of

domestic public service already under my belt, it would be great to end my federal government career on an international note.

**What's the best advice you ever received?** My high school English teacher, Mrs. Faye Maye at Independence Senior High once told me, "You can obtain anything in the world, if you put your mind to it." That has always stuck with me.

**Favorite quote and who said it?** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Paul, the Apostle - Philippians 4:13 (NKJV). More recently, I was also personally told the following: "The difference between possible and impossible is determination." Lieutenant General Mick Bednarek, Chief - Office of Security Cooperation - Iraq.

**Names of Spouse; Children; and/or Grandchildren:** Michelle (wife), Spencer (son) and Sterling (daughter)

## Speakers' Bureau

The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund changes lives and if you have an event where you'd like to hear from our Founder, students or alumni, please contact us and we can schedule someone to address your group.

For more information please contact:  
Faith Triggs, Director of Development:  
704-572-7987 or [email](#).

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Special thanks to our major sponsors for the  
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*The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund is administered by Foundation For The Carolinas.*

*CHASF Mission: "To make certain that every child living in our public housing communities has both the opportunity for and expectation of a college education."*

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