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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA EXPRESSES SHOCK AND SADNESS
OVER THE MURDER OF BOWIE STATE STUDENT ON
MARYLAND CAMPUS**



Chicago, Illinois – May 26, 2017 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, expressed deep sadness over the tragic death of Bowie State University student, Richard Collins III, and expresses its sympathy and prayers to his family and the education communities of Bowie State University and the University of Maryland. The 23-year-old Collins was stabbed to death in what police described as a random, unprovoked attack, and possibly a hate crime, on Maryland’s College Park campus on Saturday, May 20th.

International President, Dr. Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, speaking on behalf of the sorority’s 290,000 members worldwide, said, “It is extremely disheartening to hear that a young man of great promise, achievement and love of country was taken down on a college campus, just days away from his graduation.” She feels relief, however, that a suspect was immediately arrested and the University of Maryland has responded with a plan to address hate, bias and campus safety.

As Collins’s alleged killer—a white University of Maryland student--has been tied to a racist group, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority renews concern about recent incidents of racism occurring on college campuses. They include the hate crime directed at Taylor Dumpson, the first African American student government president at American University (AU), and her fellow members of Alpha Kappa Alpha on the AU campus.

Dr. Buckhanan Wilson welcomed a series of actions announced Wednesday by University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh to combat hate on campus, including new funding to support diversity education. She said, while college campuses are reflections of larger society, “no student should have to learn in the midst of violence, fear nor hate.”

Moreover, Buckhanan Wilson said Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, with a massive network of members in 1,007 local chapters worldwide, plans to monitor campus violence and hate and extends its assistance to colleges and universities.

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