

OMEGA PSI PHI HOSTS ANNUAL DENNIS DOWDELL SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

By: Madison Paddock

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Feb. 3, 2018 – The Chi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity hosted their annual Dennis Dowdell Scholarship Reception at the George and Rebecca Barnes Mansion on Feb. 1. This year’s scholarship was awarded to Solomon Lawrence, who was the valedictorian of his graduating class at the Institute at Syracuse Central ITC and now attends Cornell University. The reception was sponsored by Omega Psi Phi, as well as Wegmans, and was just one of many Black History Month events scheduled to take place in Syracuse throughout this February.

The Dennis Dowdell Scholarship has been helping graduating high school seniors in the Syracuse community for almost 30 years, and began as a tribute to Dowdell, who was a brother of Omega Psi Phi and played a very active and visible role in the Syracuse community. Dowdell served on several Syracuse community boards and was also elected as the first director of the Urban League of Onondaga County, a non-profit organization that works to provide housing assistance to those in need. Dowdell also hosted a television show that highlighted news from a Black perspective.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is founded on four principles: Scholarship, Perseverance, Manhood and Uplift. Scholarship Director Derrick Carr said, “Scholarship is one of our founding principles, so we are honored that we can carry on the Omega Psi Phi tradition and help deserving young men in the Syracuse community supplement their college educational expenses.”

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The Chi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi began in 1976 and has left a lasting impact on the Syracuse community since its chartering at the Everson Museum. The Chi Pi Chapter gives back to the community in many ways, including high school mentoring programs, an annual fundraising fish-fry, Toys for Tots, Neighborhood Youth Recreation Program, and, of course, The Dennis Dowdell Scholarship.

The Dennis Dowdell Scholarship entails a yearly \$500 award for recipients, totaling in \$2000 towards four years of higher education. “It’s a competitive application process for the scholarship,” Carr said. “Recipients are chosen based upon high school grades and GPA, personal community service efforts, a written essay and an in-person interview. Scholarship applicants also need to provide academic and professional references. We were pleased to award this year’s scholarship to Solomon Lawrence, he is a very deserving young man.”

The scholarship reception itself was a celebration of Black History Month, scholarship and community service, as well as both past and present scholarship recipients. Tickets were a donation of \$25 to attend and the event was open to the entire Syracuse community. Food and drinks were served, and there was a DJ to provide entertainment for the attendees. The reception kicked off Black History Month in Syracuse, and there are many more events scheduled throughout the month, both on and off the Syracuse University campus.

To learn more about the Chi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi and the Dennis Dowdell Scholarship, visit the fraternity’s [website](#).

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Works Cited

Derrick Carr, Scholarship Director, derrick.carr@1199.org

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