

For Immediate Release....

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. join together to raise Awareness during May, National Mental Health Awareness Month

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated are working with several institutes within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to implement educational outreach initiatives that raise awareness about mental health. Delta Sigma Theta is collaborating with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to implement the Mental Health Across the Lifespan Initiative, which focuses on issues affecting women and their families throughout the lifespan, including mental disorders such as postpartum depression, and issues that can impact mental health, including bullying and aging.

Omega Psi Phi is partnering with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) as they focus on “Changing the Dialogue about African-American Men and Mental Health” through the initiative, “Brother, You’re On My MIND” (BYOMM). BYOMM seeks to raise awareness about depression and the impact of issues related to stress. Both organizations will help bring awareness to the signs and symptoms of mental illness, while celebrating and sharing the good news that mental illness can be treated and managed.

The national leadership of Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi encourages their collective total of approximately 1750 chapters and over 220,000 members across the world to work collaboratively, starting this May – National Mental Health Awareness Month, on local events that will raise awareness and educate the communities they serve about mental health. Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President of DST, stated “I look forward to chapters of Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi working together across the country so that we will have a collective impact on reducing the stigma of mental health in our communities.”

“BYOMM is a signature program of our administration. With the partnership of the National Institutes of Health, we have the most current, evidence-based information to assist us in this effort”, said Antonio Knox, 40th Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. David Marion, 1st Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., a psychologist, is leading this initiative for Omega. “We are delighted to have his experience and expertise as a member of our national Board,” Knox continued.

All chapters of Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi will take the lead in communicating the importance of seeking help for mental health conditions and emphasizing that help and treatment are available so

that no one has to suffer in silence. It is the goal that once this information is shared with members of the community, they will in turn become carriers of the message to their family and friends.

About Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; to educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in communities. Today, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has more than 900 chapters worldwide and has initiated over 200,000 members. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs.

About Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Psi Phi is one of the largest African American fraternities in the country and was founded on Friday evening, November 17, 1911, by three Howard University undergraduate students, with the assistance of their faculty advisor Professor Ernest E. Just. The three liberal arts students were Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is an organizational Brotherhood consisting of 750 chapters and approximately 20,000 active members throughout the world. Omega Psi Phi is a unique group of men that encourage high standards; community service and assist in the building of character and leadership development among men. Members of Omega share a common foundation of comradeship that lasts a lifetime.