

Delta G.E.M.S. Partners with the Tucson Unified School District

Soror Quintina Jones coordinated with Jimmy Hart, the Director of the Tucson Unified School District's African American Studies Department to increase enrollment in the Tucson Alumnae Chapter's Delta GEMS program. The first workshops held in Spring 2011 at Santa Rita High School covered "Healthy Habits" - the importance of eating healthy, staying active, sleeping well, and avoiding cyber-bulling. The workshops were well received by the young ladies and the committee was invited back for the next school year. "We are so grateful to be able to partner with TUSD to offer one of our Sorority's signature programs and reach out to so many young ladies," said Soror Quintina Jones. "We were warmly received by Chandra Thomas, the Assistant Principal at Santa Rita High School, who thanked us for providing such a wonderful experience for these ladies."

Soror Eleeseia McFashion, the current chair of Delta GEMS, continued the partnership in Fall/Winter 2012 at Santa Rita High School organizing workshops including "Etiquette" where the girls learned how to appropriately act and dress and "Healthy Relationships" where Sorors discussed how to identify healthy relationships and unhealthy relationships. Following the "Social Action" workshop that included the principal's discussion on race relations at the high school, Sorors Kendal Washington-White and Quintina Jones held a debriefing session with the young ladies who voiced their concerns and/or frustrations regarding race relations. Sorors provided encouragement and advice. Taking the GEMS program a step further, Soror McFashion has supplemented the workshops with school work tutorial sessions to help the girls.

Sorors assisting the Delta GEMS program include employees of Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson Unified School District, and the University of Arizona providing an opportunity for the young ladies to meet successful, college-educated women from a variety of career fields.

Submitted by Soror Quintina Jones, Tucson Alumnae Chapter

Photo by Dena Munch:
GEMS students – Tucson Alumnae