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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to Converge upon Anchorage July 13-19 to Focus on Leadership Development, the Environment and Service

Chicago, Illinois - June 23, 2009 - Over 1,400 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will converge upon Anchorage, Alaska from July 13-19 for the organization's biennial Leadership Conference. Sorority leaders will spend the week teaching members leadership skills, strategizing on how to improve the environment and serving the city of Anchorage.

It is the first time in the organization's 101-year history that it has hosted its Leadership Conference in Anchorage.

In making the announcement, Barbara A. McKinzie, Alpha Kappa Alpha's international president declared, "Alaska is a state rich with a diverse culture and rich history. It also boasts a breathtaking tableau of oceans, mountains, greenery, glaciers and natural wildlife. Because it offers so much and because one of our focuses is the environment, we felt it fitting to host our Leadership Conference in Anchorage. Against Alaska's inspiring backdrop, Alpha Kappa Alpha's weeklong stay will surely stimulate and foster new and bold ways to achieve our mission: to serve all mankind."

McKinzie said the Sorority expects to pump over \$3 million into the economy by dining at its restaurants, shopping, sightseeing and by supporting its tourism mission. The Sorority will also showcase its local chapter, Xi Psi Omega, which has made a significant impact providing service to the community.

Driven by the theme "Environment Sustainability Paradigm," the conference will explore ways to advance its environmental agenda while providing the membership with viable strategies to make them leaders. The Sorority will also engage in a community service project that will benefit and uplift the Anchorage community.

The president, the 18-member board of directors and the 1,400 member attendees will also use the conference to discuss the Sorority's business, fine tune its objectives as it launches its second century of service and chart strategy as it prepares for its International Conference in 2010.

The international president said that the learning focus for Leadership 2009 parallels the Sorority's economic vision that is embraced under the theme of her administration: ESP, an acronym for Economics, Service and Partnerships. To that end, the curriculum and seminars will center around four themes:

- Education and awareness of environmental issues;
- Internal leadership development to prepare its members for the global challenges of the future;
- External economic leadership;
- Entrepreneurial economic development opportunities.

Another objective is to introduce the national Sorority to the city of Anchorage and support the local chapter through Alpha Kappa Alpha's presence and impact.

Declared McKinzie, "We hope the city and its residents will benefit in capital and in the caring that Alpha Kappa Alpha's presence will represent. Ultimately, by rendering service to the area, and complementing the contributions already made by the local chapter, we will give Anchorage an economic and psychological boost that will be felt long after the conference has ended."

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it is one of the world's leading service organizations. The Sorority's members have made a commitment "to serve all mankind" through a nucleus of more than 225,000 women in over 975 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan and in the continent of Africa. Barbara A. McKinzie is the 27th International President. McKinzie's administration is marked by the theme: ESP, which stands for Economics, Service and Partnerships. For more information, log on to www.aka1908.com.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha's Anchorage-based chapter, Xi Psi Omega

Xi Psi Omega was chartered as a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1983. Committed to the Sorority's service mission, the chapter is heavily involved in projects that enhance the Anchorage community, including voter registration, education, health awareness and promoting Black history. The chapter also advocates and works on AKA's agenda for positive legislative change by working with local, state and national lawmakers. During times of disaster, the members have donated time, talent and treasure. They also contribute to the United Negro College Fund and to a host of community agencies including the Brownies and Girl Scouts. With a resolve to prepare the next generation, the chapter has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships.