

## **Beta Sigma Boulé and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Continue Their Partnership to Celebrate Success**

Springfield-based Beta Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity partnered with the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to sponsor two events; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Education and Leadership Luncheon held at Springfield College, the birthplace of basketball, Friday, September 8, 2017, and the Full Court Press – Prep for Success Program, a youth basketball and mentoring clinic at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

The Education and Leadership Luncheon, with a focus on experiencing and inspiring greatness, was attended by over 90 high school and college students from the Springfield area and a number of educators, business and community leaders. Archon H. Brooks Fitch, Chair of the Beta Sigma Boulé Education and Leadership Luncheon Committee, led the effort to have everyone attending the luncheon be able to experience and inspire greatness. Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman, Grand Grammateus – Executive Secretary Samuel Bacote III, and Grand Social Action Committee Chair Jerlando Jackson attended the luncheon represented the national offices of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Grand Sire Archon Coleman presented an overview of the Social Action Initiatives of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Mannie Jackson and Rebecca Lobo, members of the Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2017, were featured in a roundtable discussion about their introduction to the game of basketball and how they made the adjustment to life after basketball. Both Mr. Jackson and Ms. Lobo emphasized that success on the basketball court was a result of regular hard work and focus. That same work ethic has helped both to find success in the fields they chose after their basketball careers. Other Hall of Famers attending the luncheon were Ann Meyers (enshrined in 1993+, Artis Gilmore (2011), Spencer Haywood (2015). All of the Hall of Famers who attended the luncheon interacted extensively with the students in attendance.

Nearly 100 Springfield area students had the opportunity to experience The Full Court Press – Prep for Success Program, a youth basketball and mentoring clinic sponsored by Beta Sigma Boulé and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This program was developed by the Jr. NBA and the National Basketball Retired Players Association to help students improve their basketball and life skills. Hall of Famers who volunteered as instructors included Dwight Davis, NBA All Rookie First Team 1973, Rick Barry (1987), Calvin Murphy (1993), Jamaal Wilkes (2012), Spencer Haywood (2015), and Sheryl Swoopes (2016). The program was a combination of developing life skills in the classroom and basketball skills on Center Court at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman and Grand Grammateus – Executive Secretary Samuel Bacote III also attended the program. Grand Sire Archon Coleman gave opening comments that emphasized the importance of young people having the opportunity to interact with strong role models and learn how to make good life decisions.

Feedback from the students, parents, community leaders and players was positive for both programs. Students were able to develop their skills in an environment that had structure but was also fun.