

Beta Sigma Awards over \$5,000 in Scholarships



*2016 Beta Sigma Boulé Scholars
Kamal Watt, Richard Amoako, Brian McCrae, Jordan Brown*

At its 6th Annual W.E.B. Du Bois Public Policy Program held on May 19, 2016, Beta Sigma Boulé of Springfield, Massachusetts, recognized four young men for their academic achievements. Brian Kent McCrae of Springfield Central High School was selected as this year's Howard L. Edmonds scholarship recipient. McCrae attends Brown University and will receive \$4,000 and ongoing mentorship over the next four years. The scholarship's namesake was a charter member of Beta Sigma Boulé and a prominent educator in Springfield. The three other scholarship recipients, Richard Adu Amoako, Jordan Brown, and Kamal Watt, received a \$500 book scholarship award.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Public Policy Program is a forum for community leaders to come together and address a topic of significance to the African American community such as education, health, justice, and political action. This year's program featured a presentation by Beta Sigma's own Archon Willie Hill, director of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Archon Hill is a highly regarded music educator and accomplished jazz saxophonist who provided a powerful presentation about the role of the arts in our society and the importance of arts education. Along with a trio of renowned musicians, Archon Hill took the audience on a historical journey of jazz as a creative art form and delivered a dynamic performance and sampling of music from the various jazz eras. Over 200 guests attended the event, including Archons from neighboring Alpha Psi Boulé, Hartford, Connecticut, and Beta Iota Boulé, Farmington Valley, Connecticut.