



## 2016 Session I Overview

The 2016 Leadership Program began with a "Kickoff" reception held on Sunday, March 20, 2016 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the Collins Center on SMU campus. The reception started with a "networking" session and proceeded with a brief program:

### *Welcome*

Occasion  
 Fellows Introduction  
 2016 Presenters Introduction

*Pamela K. Estes*

### *NAAWLI Greeting*

Board Acknowledgment  
 NAAWLI History

*DeLisa Rodney*

### *A Powerful African-American Woman*

Taking Your Career to the Next Level

*Beverley Wright*

### *Pay It Forward*

What's it All About

*2015 Class*

Juna Jones-Moore  
 Beverly Clemmons

The reception was attended by 27 guests which included board members, facilitators, supporters and all eleven 2016 Fellows:

- Kim Elshot-Alvarez
- Amber Cabral
- Susan Craig
- Angela George
- Daphney Lindsey
- Tammi McGriff
- Tesha Nesbitt-Arrington
- Karyn Nesby
- Nycole Reid
- Sharon Ware
- Stacey Washington
- Texas Instruments
- Walmart Stores
- Texas Instruments
- CSX Transportation
- State Farm
- CSX Transportation
- Erie Insurance
- CSX Transportation
- Southwest Airlines
- State Farm
- Bell Helicopter

## Session I Highlights

*Discovery Leadership* is the primary focus during Session I. Monday's workshop centered on the importance of your **Leadership Style** and how it impacts the way in which you lead. Participants were guided on how to determine their **Leadership Style**, their influence as a Leader and establishing team dynamics through completing a Standout profile assessment. This workshop began the process of creating tools to build high performing teams.



Tuesday's workshop concentrated on **Leadership Presence** where participants Mastered the art and science of presenting with poise, presence and power. The workshop covered:

- Baseline presentations (recorded)
- Foundations of Communications
- The Art of Effective Communication
- The Science of Effective Communication
- Skill Practice
- Deliver With Impact
- Handling Questions
- Demonstration of Skills



Wednesday's workshops centered on **Community Service**. Since NAAWLI's inception, community service has been one of the key tenets of the Leadership Institute. Each Fellow will complete a community service project in their communities upon completing their 2016 Leadership Development training.

The Fellows heard a powerful story from Philanthropist/Humanitarian – **Paula Parker**, who shared the importance of giving back with your time, talent and treasure which improves life for others. During her talk, she provided insights on Leadership mindset in non-profit organizations versus profit organizations as well as defining the value in joining a non-profit board.



The afternoon was comprised of engaging in an **"afternoon of service"** at Alley's House in Dallas, Texas. Alley's House provides a "nurturing, stable environment to help teen mothers overcome obstacles and become thriving women through counseling, innovative learning, life skills and workforce development."

Every year in the United States, there are approximately 750,000 teen pregnancies. Nearly 3 in 10 girls in the U.S. get pregnant at least once before age 20. Fewer than 40% of teen moms finish high school and less than 20% earn a GED. Ensuring the success of pregnant and parenting students is critical, not only for them but also for their children, who will be more likely to eventually drop out of school if their parents have done so.

Our Fellows (cohorts) joined the 12 teen mothers and their infants in lunch and fostered dialogues and shared encouragement for their individual journeys. Fellow Susan Grant served as NAAWLI's host and facilitated an introductions icebreaker to kick off the luncheon. Following introductions, everyone shared lunch and conversation on topics ranging from GED preparation and childcare to positive program experiences with Alley's House.



Fellows presented each participant with a gift bag (tissues/candy/pen/mirror) donated by State Farm.

## Key Learnings

A compelling story shared by Fellow Nycole Reid. Nycole shared her own personal story of being a teen mom and seeking focus as a young woman. A mother at 16, Nycole remarked that “it was hard”, and she needed to find work to support her baby. After enrolling in college courses and considering different employment options, she found her opportunity. “I took an entry level job with Southwest Airlines...now I've been with Southwest for 23 years...it's been a journey to learn who I am.” While each woman's journey is unique, this inspirational story conveyed the importance of perseverance and education.

The afternoon concluded with each Fellow sharing their professional roles across multiple industries which included: insurance, transportation, logistics, technology and retail. This prompted a short Q & A and allowed everyone to engage in additional conversations on how to meet personal and career goals for the future.

## Results

As the Fellows took a final tour of the facilities, they recognized more opportunities to support Alley's House strategic goals, which includes strengthening community partnerships. The Fellows committed to creating a plan that would support the organization's needs and their overall vision to empower young mothers. The plan includes donating supplies for the clothing shop, packing non-perishable meals/snacks for the days the facility is in session with the mothers and purchasing gift cards from local/national retailers.

- One participant remarked on the opportunity to “meet other mothers with similar issues and concerns” which provided a safe haven for her
- An opportunity to serve as “role models” for teenage girls
- Included Facebook postings



Alley's House added 2 new photos.  
March 24 at 5:21pm · 🌐

👍 Like as Your Page

Big thanks to the [National African-American Women's Leadership Institute](#) for bringing mentors from across the country to speak with our moms!

- Donations from NAAWLI's caterer – Axxcess Catering will begin donating meals to Alley's House
- Impacted approximately 40 individuals (including Axxcess Catering)
- Donations can be made to Alley's House by visiting: <http://alleyshouse.org/wishlist/>

## Attendees

### ***Alley's House***

Kirsten Brandt James – Executive Director  
Stephanie Shavers Jones – Program Supervisor  
Lilly Rairez – Administrative Assistant

### ***NAAWLI***

DeLisa Rodney – Board President & State Farm  
Pamela K. Estes – Executive Director  
2016 Fellows