

University STEM Academy Hosts Annual Fundraiser



The University STEM Academy, which is based at the University of California at Riverside, hosted its third annual fundraiser on Sunday, October 29, 2017 at D&D's Dance Studio in Riverside, California. The theme of the fundraiser was "Invest in our Future by Taking Charge of the Present", and the entertainment was centered around gospel music and African-American history. (Pictured left, Deven Purifoy performs a gospel rap for the guests in attendance at the Shrimp and Grits Gospel Brunch STEM Academy fundraiser.)



Dr. Carolyn B. Murray founded the STEM Academy to promote an interest in careers involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for African-American students, who are under represented in these fields. Each year Dr. Murray enlists the support of local community organizations to increase awareness of the program and fund materials for the students who participate. (Pictured left are Tammy Martin-Ryles, President of the Inland Empire Black Chamber of Commerce and high school teacher at the Corona-Norco Unified School District (far left), Danielle Mackey, member of the Inland Empire Jack and Jill of America Chapter (center), and Patrice Cole-Morrow, member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America Pomona, California Chapter (right).



Sharron Lewis-Campbell of EMPOWER YOU Edutainment coordinated the musical performances, which included praise dancers, gospel solos, choral ensembles and historical renditions of the impact of faith and gospel music on African-Americans. Dr. Salem Saraji led the audience in the Libation activity, where guests acknowledged deceased family members and African-Americans leaders, while pouring out libations to express appreciation for their sacrifices and teachings.

Pictured above (from left to right) - Zack and Alva Stewart, Fontana School Board Member Jason O'Brien, Sr. and his wife, Shannon O'Brien, and Dr. Carolyn Murray (founder of the University STEM Academy) and her husband Phillip Murray. All of the above gentlemen are members of the Riverside Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and their wives are referred to as the "Silhouettes" of Riverside Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity.