

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Phoenix Area Chapters of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc Give Back to Seven Valley Schools in Celebration of Its Centennial**

November 21, 2022 - Phoenix, Arizona: Seven schools in the Phoenix Metro area each received a \$1,922 donation made in honor of the 100th anniversary of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, Beta Mu Sigma & Beta Pi Chapters, in partnership with the Giving. Learning. Developing. (GLD) Foundation, made the donations to each of the selected schools' representatives during its centennial gala on November 12, 2022 on the campus of Arizona State University.

The nominees were narrowed down based on a criteria that included: the percentage of minority students, the number of students on free/reduced lunch, total student enrollment and more. The schools honored were Bernard Black Entrepreneurial Academy, Betty H. Fairfax High School, C.J. Jorgensen Elementary School, G. Frank Davidson Elementary, Roadrunner Elementary, Rogers Ranch Elementary School and Solano Elementary.

“The Centennial Scholarship from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is truly a blessing to our school. With the scholarship we will be able to complete multiple projects across our campus. As the art teacher I will create new art centers inspired by the elements of art and purchasing art supplies for my students. I feel so blessed to be connected to an amazing organization that is helping students and schools in such an amazing way.” - Kelvonnah Stidhum, Art Teacher at Roadrunner Elementary School.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. was organized on November 12, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven educators. Since its inception 100 years ago, the dynamic women of the fantastic sorority have built and sustained a well-known and well-respected reputation for leading positive change to help uplift the community through sisterhood, leadership, and service.

When asked why the Phoenix Chapters chose this service project to celebrate their centennial, one member was quoted saying, “Our Founders were educators who risked their lives to create an organization that ensured that black and brown children had access to education and all of its benefits. What better way to honor them, than by providing for schools in our community with large low-income, minority populations.”

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc was the first African American sorority in the state of Arizona (Beta Mu Sigma) - chartering in 1950 and at Arizona State University (Beta Pi) in 1952. The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc are educators, lawyers, doctors, engineers, politicians, social workers and so much more. With a focus on serving the community, the Beta Mu Sigma and Beta Pi Chapters host several programs throughout the year. Examples include their annual school supply drive (Operation Big Book Bag), voter registration events, breast cancer awareness programs and annual swim clinic (Swim 1922) focusing on water safety.

For more information about Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc visit [www.sgrho1922.org](http://www.sgrho1922.org). For more information on the GLD Foundation visit [www.gldfoundation.org](http://www.gldfoundation.org).