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Official Voice of the
Community Development Program
School of Architecture
Prairie View A&M University
Spring 2019



**Alumna Tiffany Thomas, '08
returns as Assistant Professor**

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Colleagues:

It's a great time to be on 'The Hill'!



Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni, Dean

PVAMU's community development program is the only interdisciplinary graduate program in the state of Texas, and that's something we should be proud of. Our diverse and talented faculty continue to enhance teaching, apply theory through service and are engaged in research to help us remain an institution of first-class. I encourage you to explore our website to learn more about the community development graduate program and opportunities that await you at PVAMU. We hope you consider joining us in our efforts to enhance communities around us – locally and globally.

Program Highlights As the industry continues to grow and emerge it's important we re-examine our program to make sure we're offering the most cutting-edge experiences and academic rigor so our students can be prepared for the best opportunities:

RESEARCH We're raising the profile and credibility of our program by participating in more student and faculty research. **Na'Shon Edwards** will present "*Needs Based Community Development: Establishing a Curriculum for Under-served Communities*" at the 2019 Community Development Education Symposium in Detroit, MI.

SERVICE Internships are essential to training the next generation of thoughtful designers, community leaders, planners, and advocates. If you are aware of opportunities that are a good fit for our program we'd love to match your needs with our talented student population.

LEARNING Fall 2018 Introduction to Community Development class created a Community Needs Assessment tool for the City of Prairie View, hosted the first-ever State of the City with Mayor Allen and provided a feasibility study for increased community engagement. This type of front-line learning enhances the classroom experience for our students and provides them with real-time capabilities.

LEADERSHIP Join us in welcoming our NEW Community Development Stakeholder Committee – this group of leaders will help us create deeper pathways within our current program:

Bobby Lieb

Vice President, Community and Economic Development Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

Kevin Dancy

Community Development Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank Dallas-Houston

Christian Butler

Deputy Director, Public Works Permitting Center
City of Houston

Anita Hollman

Principal Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Keep in touch!

Ikhlas Sabouni

Dean, School of Architecture + ACSADP, PVAMU &
ACSA Distinguished Professor

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Alumni Spotlight

We're very proud of the many spaces our graduates occupy and shine. We would love to showcase our talent through our upcoming newsletter and social media outlets. Here are a few of our best!

Sharita C. Thomas, '07, Deputy Director, Office of Human Services for the City of Baltimore with the Mayor Pugh Administration. After completing her Masters in Community Development, she attended Thurgood Marshall Law School at Texas Southern University. She's currently leading the economic development efforts for the Census 2020 on behalf of the City of Baltimore. Sharita is a three-time HBCU graduate.

Nelson Bowman, '12, Managing Director, Southwest Region UNICEF/ USA Funds is responsible for fund-development and the overall strategy of UNICEF. Nelson has published up to five publications around the importance of HBCU philanthropy giving. Nelson the former Executive Director of Development for PVAMU and a two-time HBCU graduate.

Bryce H. Kennard, '07, Communications Manager for Comcast's Houston Region. Before joining Comcast, he worked in the Government and Public Affairs Division of CITGO Petroleum Corporation, where he had responsibilities in corporate communications and external affairs. Bryce is a two-time HBCU graduate.

Community Development in ACTION:

Devonta Magee, '16, is an Architectural Designer with Tilson Homes where he designs custom residential homes. Devonta graduated in December.

Kristen Wells-Lewis, '15, accepted an FT job with the PVAMU Cooperative Extension Program located in Dallas, TX. She has focused her research and service around HBCUs leveraging land-grant status to impact health outcomes through access to fresh produce. Kristen will graduate in December.

Giordaun Baity, '18, joined the Harris County Democratic Party as Elections Director focusing on voter outreach and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Houston Area Urban League Young Professionals Community Outreach Committee. Giordaun graduated in December.

Angela Richardson, '96, was appointed to the McKinney Community Development Corporation in October assigned to the Retail Development Infrastructure Committee. She's employed with the US Department of Agriculture – as a Community Program Specialist. Angela is a current student in the program.

Xante Wallace, '18, was elected to the Prairie View City Council, Position 2 in June 2017. He's a current student in the Community Development Program and is the youngest serving member on Council.

William Polley, '17, was on the 2018 PVAMU Track Team to win the Outdoor SWAC Track & Field Championship after 10 years. William is a current student in the program with a research interest in the resurgence of the HBCU by recruiting the academic athlete.

Alumni Voices Needed

Hey, You! Yes, You! We're always looking to reconnect with former students. Complete the survey below and let us know where you are serving, living and working these days.

[Alumni Survey](#)

Faculty Updates

Courtney Johnson-Rose was appointed to the Houston Land Bank in January 2019. The Lank Bank's mission is to acquire vacant and tax forfeited properties for redevelopment. Tell her congratulations at cjrose@pvamu.edu

Kevin V. Riles was appointed to the Hiram Clarke/Fort Bend Tax Reinvestment Zone #25 in January. Tell him congratulations at kvriles@pvamu.edu



Courtney Johnson-Rose



Kevin Riles

Save The Dates:

February 24-26, 2019 – Texas Legislative Black Caucus Summit (Austin, TX)

March 3-5, 2019 – Texas Community Development Conference (San Antonio, TX)

April 2, 2019 – Cultural Heritage & Preservation class hosts Sports x Activism x Culture Discussion

May 9-10, 2019 – 2019 Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference (Washington, D.C.)

Help us grow our program by referring someone to enroll [here](#). Strong programming only continues with strong support. Consider making a gift towards the Community Development Graduate Program [here](#). Be sure to note SOA-CODE in the box when requested. We'd love to have you join us promote our work with financial support.

For more information regarding the Community Development program, visit:

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SOA at a Glance

Since 2006, we've graduated:

206 Master in Community Development	214 Master in Architecture
174 Bachelor of Science in Construction Science	7 Bachelor of Science in Digital Digital Media Arts
481 Bachelor of Science in Architecture	