



## **Epsilon Epsilon Omega Chapter Soror of the Year 2018**

### **Desiree McMillion**

**Chapter (school) year initiated in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated:**  
Epsilon Epsilon Omega, University of Illinois – Champaign (2014)

**Year joined Epsilon Epsilon Omega:**  
2014

**Current and past involvement in Epsilon Epsilon Omega and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (positions held, committee involvement, etc.):**

I am currently the Chairman of the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF) and Co-Chairman of the Archives/History committee. I serve or have served as a committee member on the following: Programs, Founders' Day, Audit, Connections, Standards/Protocol, Bylaws, Regional Conference, Reading is Fundamental (RIF), and Sisterly Relations committees.

**College(s)/Degree(s):**

I have an Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.) in Psychology from Parkland College, Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) with an emphasis in Psychology from Eastern Illinois University, Master of Arts Degree (M.A.) in Education and Human Resources, and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership both from the University of Illinois. I also hold various certificates in Accounting, Finance, and Marketing and Counseling.

**Why did you become a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated?**

There are many reasons why I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Raised in Champaign, I found myself on the University of Illinois campus surrounded by many students involved with the Black Greek/Divine Nine community. Although - not sure I would ever become part of a Greek organization, I was always curious. In completing an archival research project, I stumbled across an article suggesting ideas of what it means to be part of a Greek organization. After researching, I realized my personal and professional qualities align to the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and noticed a very comparable connection with my skillset. This was truly a defining moment in my life. This ignited my curiosity and the want to participate in a strong cohesive organization filled with scholarship, one that influences the lives of millions within the community and throughout academic settings.

As time passed, I continued to think about the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. With many women and girls I mentor, I consistently promote unity and friendships among them and their peers. I help alleviate problems concerning my female students and others to improve their lives as they continue the journey of higher education. The connection of my volunteer services within the community, the campus culture, and my professional career as an educator with ties to administration in the collegiate world align with the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. My want became a need to participate and to become a member of the sorority wholeheartedly.

Honored with the opportunity to join and carry out the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has allowed me to continue on a platform with a group of beautiful and fascinating women. We work together as we provide 'Service to All Mankind', to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards. Our mission is my passion, and our mission is my belief! I have grown over the years and have learned in order to continue this journey alongside my sorors - one must be the change you want to see in others. The marvelous Oprah Winfrey created one of my favorite quotes. "Become the change you want to see – those are the words I live by." This is how I try to live my life daily; I seek to be the change. I truly love my AKA!

### **Other community service involvement:**

I am a member of Stone Creek Church in Urbana, IL where I currently serve on Security and First Impressions. I also serve on special teams for community/open to the public events and serve with other areas of the church. I am involved with many student-registered organizations designed for undergraduate and graduate students on the University of Illinois campus and often serve as an advisor/mentor. I provide mentoring to underrepresented students in the private and public schools (6th -12th) throughout the area via workshops, lectures and performances. I also serve on the board of Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy in Champaign, a musical knowledge-based program for student musicians in the community.

Other community/campus service volunteer efforts throughout the area include but are not limited to: hospital and nursing home volunteer services, mentoring youth in detention centers, youth activities with the park district, monthly services with (two) local food pantry, creating educational programs for underrepresented students of color for use in the community and campus, design and share various resources for college students, assist with planning of curriculum for successful graduation efforts and provide grant writing workshops.

My personal interests are as follows - I love volunteering, teaching, mentoring and assisting those in the community. I enjoy reading various types of literature and storytelling. I have created various student groups for black women across campus where I advise and mentor them regularly. I am always fascinated with comparison to the past, present and future of Black women in academia as my research primarily focuses on Black women in higher education. I also love to travel, meet new people, attend concerts and sporting events, and I have a true love for cooking.