



**Spring/Summer 2023**

## **Save the Weekend: September 22-24, 2023** **EBN's Annual Conference in Akron, Ohio**

Bobcats: Make plans to be in Akron, Ohio  
September 22-24, 2023.

"The Akron/Canton affiliate is pleased to host the Ebony Bobcat Network Annual Conference," said Tracy Carter, EBN Akron/Canton president.

Details will be shared with alumni in the weeks ahead, along with plans to expose EBN members to LeBron James' new House 330 and the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame, unique experiences to those who live in and visit the Akron-Canton region.

So, check your inboxes and social media platforms for everything you need to know about the EBN Annual Conference!



### **Tyrone Carr Retires After 32 years of Service to Ohio University; Will Receive Special Honors during the September EBN Conference in Akron**

Since Ebony Bobcat Network's beginnings, Tyrone Carr has been a valued connection between EBN and Ohio University, a loyal friend and dedicated champion of EBN. Carr, director of Alumni Diversity Initiatives, retired from the University in March, after more than 32 years of service.

Members of EBN attended a retirement reception in his honor at Ohio University in April. But no worries if you missed the reception. EBN will make a special presentation to Carr at the September Conference in Akron, Ohio.

**Learn more about Carr's accomplishments while at Ohio University.**



## Dr. Francine C. Childs: A Dedicated Life. A Distinguished Legacy.

As the Ohio University community mourned the passing of Dr. Francine C. Childs, Professor Emerita of African American Studies, in May, Black alumni and students were especially saddened by her loss. More than an accomplished professor, Dr. Childs was equally a mentor, spiritual advisor, and a mother-away-from home who educated, inspired, and challenged students for nearly 40 years at Ohio University. Her goal: to empower students to create a sense of community and inspire change.

Ebony Bobcat Network honored Dr. Childs with its Trailblazer Award at the 2019 Black Alumni Reunion and will forever remember her life and legacy.



[Read more about Dr. Child's life and accomplishments:](#)

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### Giving Day 2023 Raises \$19,884 for EBN Urban Scholarship Endowment

THANK  
YOU!

- **THANK YOU** to the many donors that participated in OU's April 18th Giving Day. Because of your generosity, many students will have the opportunity to receive a quality college education at our beloved Ohio University.
- **THANK YOU** for choosing Ebony Bobcat Network Urban Scholarship Endowment as your network to prioritize. "That choice will help EBN continue to provide students of color with the chance to make their career dreams come true," said Stella Antwine, EBN Endowment Chair.
- **THANK YOU**, Huey L. Ball, '67, for your \$2,500 challenge that helped generate a total contribution of \$13,256 for the Ebony Bobcat Network Urban Scholarship Endowment.
- And, thanks to the Ohio University Match of \$6,628, the total raised was \$19,994. (The match pays 50 cents for each dollar donated).

**THANK YOU ALL for making OHIO GIVING DAY a great success!!!**

## **"EBN Reach:" Touching, Connecting, Harnessing Our Power with New Affiliates**

Ebony Bobcat Network is excited to have a dynamic group of Bobcats in Florida as the first to experience the EBN Reach Program.

EBN Reach is an affiliate development process designed to fully integrate prospective groups into the EBN family. During the 2022 Black Alumni Reunion, several Floridians expressed interest in becoming part of EBN. Shortly after BAR, a group led by Valerie Green and Wil Laws, submitted a letter of interest to create a new statewide affiliate. The EBN National Board approved the letter, and the process began. What's unique is that, unlike the other city or regional-based affiliates, the Florida group is composed of members from all areas of the state. They meet monthly by Zoom and plan to meet in person three to four times a year.

The Florida team's first orientation session was filled with lots of Bobcat spirit, mixed with vital organizational information, questions and ideas. Here's how the Reach program works:

1. A two-person coaching team is assigned to the prospective affiliate to provide information and support.
2. An interested group must recruit a minimum of 12-15 committed Bobcats as a beginning base to build an effective, sustainable affiliate.
3. Prospective groups must attend a three-session EBN orientation via web conference, which highlights key elements of operating a successful EBN affiliate.

**If you are an alumnus interested in forming an EBN affiliate in your city, state, or an area outside of the U.S., reach out to EBN Reach coordinator LaWanna McKinley White, [lmcwhite2008@gmail.com](mailto:lmcwhite2008@gmail.com), for more information.**





# Ebony Bobcats Serve their Communities during Ohio University Beautification Days



The annual Bobcat Beautification Day is all about Ohio University alumni getting together, wherever they happen to be, to make their corner of the world a little better.

Ebony Bobcat Network affiliates joined in on this community day of service in May to support a variety of non-profit organizations. EBN volunteers planted flowers, spruced up the grounds, organized warehouse items, and donated items, all while enjoying friends and fellowship.

- EBN Akron/Canton volunteers planted flowers and spruced up the grounds at the Huntington Center for Hope and Healing.
- EBN Cleveland donated topsoil and alumni planted flowers for the African American Cultural Gardens. OU alumnus Obie Shelton serves as director of the AACG.
- EBN Cincinnati\Dayton members organized the warehouse and donated highly requested personal items for Lighthouse Youth and Family Services to support families in need and youth experiencing homelessness and independent living.



## EBN Ohio Affiliates Join Together to Host "EBN Connects" Featuring OU Alumni

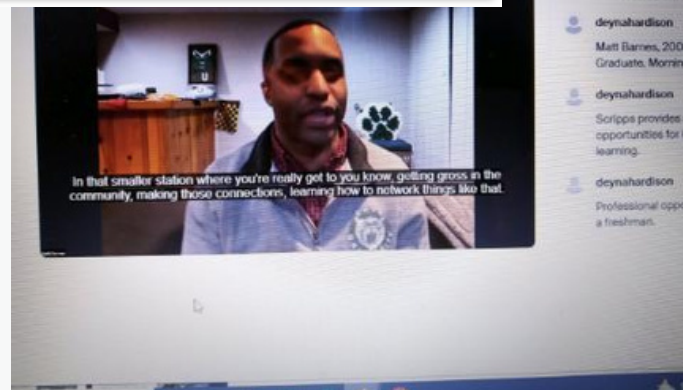
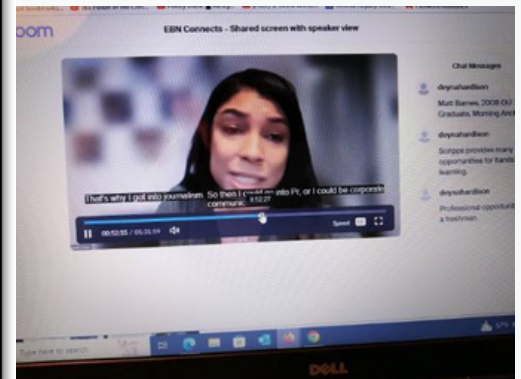


A virtual EBN Connects took place on January 15, thanks to a collaborative effort among these affiliates: Akron/Canton, Cincinnati/Dayton, Cleveland, and Columbus. Prospective students and their families experienced Ohio University through the reflections of alumni from the Scripps School of Journalism.

Alumna Tekeia Howard organized the online event and alumna Marsha Bonhart Neilson moderated. Scripps alums who shared stories about their careers and their experiences at Ohio University included: Jennifer Moore, Matt Barnes, Earl Hopkins, and Allison Hunter, along with current OU student Andre Norrils. Dr. Matteo Remsburg from Ohio University Undergraduate Admissions outlined the application process.

**[View the entire webinar here.](#)**

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# EBN AFFILIATE NEWS

## EBN Akron/Canton

### *Bobcat Caravan brings together OU alumni for food, fellowship, and fundraising*



On April 20, the Ohio Bobcat Club and Ohio Athletics presented a Bobcat Caravan in Medina, Ohio.

Akron/Canton affiliate president Tracy Carter attended the event along with EBN Cleveland members Connie Lawson Davis and Cynthia Calhoun. Ms. Calhoun also serves as an Ohio University Board of Trustees member. OU alumnus Tim Courtad, president/partner of Pride One Construction, hosted the event at his business. Coaches of the men's and women's basketball and football teams were present to discuss their upcoming season and fundraising priorities.

[Ebony Bobcat Network Akron/Canton](#)



## EBN Cincinnati/Dayton

### *Alumna Urges Leaders to Lead*

On February 2, alumni, Bobcat friends and students participated in "Leaders Must Lead," an interactive webinar, facilitated by alumna Licia Thompson, a certified leadership reinvention strategist. Throughout the webinar, Thompson provided tips for participants, urging attendees to become self-aware of their thoughts, behaviors, and actions. A video of the event is available.

[Click here for a replay:](#)

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## EBN Cincinnati/Dayton

### *Ebony Bobcats Demonstrate Giving Spirit*



Cincinnati-Dayton Ebony Bobcats and friends showed their giving spirit on Giving Day Tuesday, April 18th. With fourteen EBN Cincinnati/Dayton-associated alumni and friends making contributions, the affiliate ranked 12th among all Ohio University alumni networks in total donors. Funds went to Ohio University scholarships, including the Ebony Bobcat Network Urban Scholarship Endowment. During the evening Bobcats gathered for networking, pizza, complimentary cocktails, and Ohio University merchandise door prizes. The event took place at the Fix Coffeehouse & Bar, owned by OU alumnus Keith Coombs.



[Ebony Bobcat Network Cincinnati/Dayton](#)



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## EBN Cleveland

### *Bobcats Assemble Take-Home Meals at Cleveland Food Bank*

On May 5, members of Ebony Bobcat Network Cleveland participated in a volunteer opportunity at The Cleveland Food Bank. Volunteers assembled take home meals that were distributed to a school districts in the Cleveland area.



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## EBN Cleveland

### *Basketball Night with the Cavs and "Coffee or Cocktails" are Bobcat Good Times*

EBN Cleveland participated with Cleveland Bobcats for a night of basketball at the Cleveland Cavaliers game and a pre-game pub party. "We were able to meet new Bobcats, secure upgraded 'suite tickets' that included a complimentary buffet and, what's more, the CAVS were victorious," said Lynn Charles, EBN Cleveland president.

The EBN Cleveland Membership Committee hosted a successful, post-Covid comeback event: "Coffee or Cocktails." The Kulture Ultra Lounge at Mayfield and Warrensville was the perfect spot for the outing. The affiliate provided door prizes and attendees enjoyed a signature cocktail –the Cat Attack. There were also special prices on selected food items for attendees. More than 40 alumni and friends attended, and best of all---Cleveland gained new EBN members. The committee will provide quarterly opportunities for Cleveland Bobcats to network & socialize, while supporting local Black and Bobcat-affiliated businesses. Look for the next Coffee or Cocktails!



[Ebony Bobcat Network Cleveland](#)



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## EBN Columbus

### *EBN Columbus Attends Basketball Classic Supporting Black Colleges & Universities*

On April 22, EBN Columbus members attended the 2nd Annual College Basketball All-Star Game & Extravaganza at the Schottenstein Center, on the campus of The Ohio State University. David Nguyen, dean of Ohio University's University College, supported the event by purchasing a suite for OU alumni and friends. The event offered an entire day of educational, cultural and entertainment festivities that support historically Black colleges and universities. In addition, over \$430,000 was raised to support scholarship programs.



[Ebony Bobcat Network Columbus](#)





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## EBN Washington D.C.

### *Alumnus Discusses Voting Rights History and Activism During Book Signing*



EBN DC hosted a January book signing honoring Ohio University alumnus Gregory T. Moore, author of "Beyond the Voting Rights Act." The book describes the captivating story of how the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 began and the many challenges these two laws have faced since their historic inception.

Moore discussed the history of voting rights and voter registration and shared his insights on where we are today and expressed his hope for the future of our American democracy. A stimulating conversation and lively Q&A session, led by Carl Chancellor, a Pulitzer Prize winner & OU alumnus, followed Moore's remarks. Moore's in-depth firsthand experience and knowledge of voter registration activism throughout his life was on full display throughout the event.

### *"Ambitions Project" Connects Ohio U. Students with Alumni During D.C. Tour*

When the Multicultural Students Business Caucus (MSBC) introduced its "Ambitions Project" to the EBN National Board last November, EBN DC alumni were "All In" to support the students' inaugural project. The goals of the venture were to: Recruit Future Bobcats, Retain Current Students, and Engage with Alumni during a weeklong trip to Washington D.C.

In April, 21 MSBC students and their faculty advisor, Professor Nicole Smith (a 2022 EBN BAR awardee), arrived in DC for their activities. The group, along with EBN DC leaders and OU Admissions personnel, welcomed committed DC area freshmen to Ohio University and presented an introductory EBN slide presentation. The week included visits to various corporate and government offices to learn about professional life post-graduation. Additionally, students attended a Wizards basketball game and went sightseeing to DC monuments and the National Museum of African American History & Culture. The weeklong project concluded with students attending an EBN DC-hosted mixer where the students shared their aspirations with alumni, and alumni shared their professional experiences.

"Clearly these students established relationships which will last long past their return to Athens," said George Wilson, EBN DC president.

Next up: an MSBC visit planned for Chicago.



## It's Time NOW to Nominate for the 2024 Ohio University Alumni Association Board of Directors and Alumni Awards

Are you or do you know fellow Ebony Bobcats that are active participants with an Ohio University alumni group? Do you show up at alumni events? Do you return to campus for athletic games or to support your college or student initiatives? If so, YOU or another alum may be the perfect candidate to serve on an alumni board or receive a recognition award.

OAAA is now accepting nominations for new members to be appointed to its Board of Directors, and EBN will be forwarding its own recommendations for nomination. EBN advocates for diverse voices and perspectives to be represented on the OAAA Board and we believe that Ebony Bobcats add critical value to the issues, solutions, and opportunities for Ohio University.

Learn more about the OAAA and consider nominating a fellow Ebony Bobcat for service on its Board of Directors.

[For more information on OAAA and how to nominate an alumnus, click here.](#)

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### OAAA Alumni Awards Nominations

Each year, the Ohio University Alumni Association (OAAA) and OHIO Athletics honor alumni who have made their university proud.

[For more information on how to nominate an alumnus, click here.](#)

**Nominations for both the Ohio University Alumni Board of Directors and the 2024 Alumni Awards will be accepted from now until December 31, 2023.**

# *EBN Recent Graduate Spotlight*

## **Brian Siggers**

Brian Siggers, '16, serves as the Cleveland Metro Advocacy Director for the Ohio Environmental Council. He has years of experience in political consulting, with extensive work in working on political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels.

His background is in grassroots organizing and advocacy, where he has helped increase voter education, turnout, and participation. Brian is a proud graduate of Ohio University where he earned his degree in Political Science. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, and the NAACP of Cleveland.



## *Upcoming Event*

### **Ohio University Homecoming 2023**

Mark your calendars for

**Thursday, October 5 - Sunday, October 8**

**OU Homecoming 2023!**

Of course we enjoy attending our triennial Black Alumni Reunion; however, we hear so many alums at BAR say three years is too long to wait for us to gather and fellowship. And we agree! So EBN is making a concerted effort to start increasing our presence at Homecoming each year. Many of us attended last year to support EBN Founder Dr. Patricia A. Ackerman when she received the prestigious honor of being named Alumna of the Year by our Alumni Association!

Stay tuned from our EBN Homecoming Planning Committee; they are currently researching logistics for an EBN tailgate prior to the game, as well as lodging options.



# **The Ebony Bobcat Network Leadership 2022-2024**

**Valerie Biggs-Hill**, National President

**Damon Scott**, National Vice President

**Alyssa Green**, National Corresponding/Recording Secretary

**Dwight Warner**, National Treasurer

**LaWanna (Mckinley) White**, Past National President

**Tracy Carter**, President  
*Akron/Canton Affiliate*

**Lynn Charles**, President  
*Cleveland Affiliate*

**Clarence Harris**, President  
*Chicago Affiliate*

**Traylene Hines**, President  
*Columbus Affiliate*

**Reynell Frazier**, President  
*Cincinnati/Dayton Affiliate*

**George Wilson**, President  
*Washington DC Affiliate*

**Contact EBN National @  
ebnnationalbd@gmail.com**



# Want to Connect with EBN Affiliates?

## Here's How

### **Akron/ Canton**

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month @7pm via Zoom Conference  
Email address [EBNAkron/Canton@gmail.com](mailto:EBNAkron/Canton@gmail.com)  
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/EBN330>

### **Chicago**

Meetings: TBD  
Email address [EBNChicago@gmail.com](mailto:EBNChicago@gmail.com)

### **Cincinnati/ Dayton**

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
Email address [EBNCincinnati/Dayton@gmail.com](mailto:EBNCincinnati/Dayton@gmail.com)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ebncincinnati/dayton>

### **Cleveland**

Meetings: 1st` Wednesday monthly @6:30 pm via Zoom Conference  
Email address [EBNCleveland@gmail.com](mailto:EBNCleveland@gmail.com)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EBNCleveland>

### **Columbus**

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday monthly @ 6:30 pm  
Email address [EBNColumbus@gmail.com](mailto:EBNColumbus@gmail.com)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ebncolumbus>

### **Washington DC**

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 6 pm  
Email address [EBNWashingtonDC@gmail.com](mailto:EBNWashingtonDC@gmail.com)