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# Kent Smith Resigns University Presidency



**See Page 2**

**the Gazette**

The Gazette is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University.

It serves as a teaching tool. The newspaper is published biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

**Edition Editors**

Kesean Cleveland  
Sasha Ndisabiye  
Jasilyn Spivey

**Cover Photos**

Midori Williams

**Staff Writers**

Sam Battle  
Samuel Gichohi  
Sharodon Jenkins  
Jeremiah Harrison  
Ma'Kalynn Richardson  
Midori Williams  
Taniya McQueen

**Adviser**

Daniel Thompson

**The Gazette Office**

Langston University  
Sanford Hall, Room 318

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to [dthom34@langston.edu](mailto:dthom34@langston.edu). Opinions expressed in Voices are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles.

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Read Online

# Lions President resigns to become owner of a Chick-fil-A

**By Midori Williams**  
*Staff Writer*

On April 4th, Dr. Kent J. Smith announced that he will be retiring as President of Langston University after the conclusion of the Spring 2023 semester. Smith has worked in education for 30 years and was Langston University's 16th president, serving in the position for 11 years. After retirement he plans to further his career as a Chick-fil-A franchise owner. He expresses immense love for Langston University, as well as pride for what he has been able to accomplish here but has decided to make this decision for the betterment of his family.

Some of Smith's accomplishments included the building of the Student Success Center and developing the first campus master plan in Langston University history. He believes that over the years his mindset has evolved from dreaming of what our University can become to actually making it happen.

"We started doing things that at one point we didn't know were possible," Smith said. He expressed that the most fulfilling part about being president was that it gave him an opportunity to help young people pursue an education at an HBCU.

"I'm a two time HBCU graduate...my parents are HBCU graduates and so for me, this wasn't just another job, this was a calling in terms of how do I make life better for students," Smith said.

During his time as president, he carefully considered how each decision he was faced with would impact Langston University as a whole. He explained that not every decision can always benefit everyone and despite the administration's dedication to being thorough, big decisions can come with scrutiny.

"I have learned you have to take the good with the bad, you have to fundamentally believe you are doing the right thing," Smith said.

Theresa Powell, the Vice President of Operations, has known Smith for 17 years and has worked

alongside him for the entirety of his career here at Langston University. She believes that the wellness of the students has remained his number one priority. "President Smith has always led with the needs of students in mind," Powell said.

Smith shared that the most difficult part about being president was that who he is as a person is often reduced to his title. "The irony is most people don't truly know me...if I had it my way I would want people to see how much I really care."

Powell thinks highly of Smith's leadership skills and feels that he will be missed by the administration. "I am confident that his contributions will continue to impact the university for many years to come...I look forward to seeing the campus master plan come to fruition over time," Powell said.

There will be an interim president for six months to a year following Smith's retirement. The search for a new president will begin in the fall and that president would begin working spring or summer of 2024. The campus master plan, which involves significant renovations to older buildings and the construction of new ones, will then be turned over to the new president for them to review and possibly alter. "I would encourage people

to embrace change...the plan was always meant to be fluid," Smith said.

As Smith reflects on his time as president he feels that the impact Langston University has had on him and his family is immeasurable. He has cherished the opportunity to do what he loves while raising his sons on campus.

"This is the only home that my three youngest children have ever known," Smith said.

He is sad to be leaving Langston University but believes that it is what is best for his family. By becoming a Chick-fil-A franchise owner, Smith hopes to create generational wealth for his children and grandchildren.

"I grew up a lot like some of our students, we didn't have much and my parents felt like education was the best way to have a better life economically," Smith said.

He explained that even though he has been able to make a good living for himself through his career in education, he had to consider the legacy he was building for his sons.

"The day I leave Langston that income leaves my family...now I get to go and start my own business so that as young black men my sons will be able to learn first hand how to run a business and I believe that is going to help them have lifelong success," Smith

said. Smith explained that owning a restaurant has been one of his dreams since he was in high school and seeing his dream come into fruition means a lot to him. He also feels that although working at Chick-fil-A in Omaha, Nebraska, will be different from being the president of Langston University, there are surprisingly many ways in which the two are alike.

"In a weird way it is similar to what I do today because the workforce is high schoolers and college students...out of 78 employees that I will employ, 90% of them are high school and college students. Additionally, the restaurant where I'm going is in a predominantly black and Hispanic area," he said.

Smith hopes to use his experience working at an HBCU to aid him as he gets acclimated to a different community and group of employees. Another aspect of his new job that he values is the opportunity to buy into an online university that partners with Chick-fil-A in order to continue to positively impact the lives of the younger generation.

"As the owner, I can choose to purchase a piece where all of my employees can go to college for free, online, and that's exciting to me," Smith said.

*Midori Williams is a junior broadcast journalism major*



Photo Courtesy of Langston University Twitter

# Got Milk? How students conduct goat research

By Jeremiah Harrison  
Staff Writer

Many Langston students know that the university has a goat farm, yet many aren't sure what exactly the goats are used for. Do they help Langston grow and expand our agricultural skills? Are they essential to our daily student lives? Do we cook them and eat them?

Jateya Jackson is a junior animal science major. She has worked on the goat farm as well as in the agricultural labs. Jackson was able to go into detail about some of the testing she does on goat milk for the program, how it functions and what they test for.

"It's called the Dairy Herd Information Lab for Goats at Langston University. I collect samples from different farms around the United States and we test them for any milk infections, inside diseases or chronic diseases," said Jackson. "Langston got this opportunity when they started their own goat farm here. They didn't want to send out their samples anymore, so they got lab certified and now we can test here. We actually test for a number of things, like somatic cell count, Free-Fatty Acids (FFA), and Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PFA)".

Goat milk samples are sent in the mail from farms around the country for Langston to test.

"They all come through the mail in vials that contain a preservative pill, so they last. A lot of them don't usually expire, but sometimes they do, to natural causes."

Once the milk arrives it must be prepped and tested. The samples are sat in warm water to get them to temperature for the two machines that will be processing it: the Dairy Spec and the Somatic Cell machine. The samples can't go in cold, as goat milk thickens to cheese if you let it sit. Bringing it up to body temp is the only way to get an accurate reading of the data, almost as if the milk was fresh.

These tests show the nutritional state of the goat whose milk was sampled and will allow the farmer to know if their milk is good to sell and consume. After placing the samples in the auto sampler tray, which allows both machines to test at the same time, they record the data and send that back to the farm.

"We get the milk out of the boxes, write down their Dairy Herd Information (DHI) and then we enter all their DHI into the computer. You put the goat's number and herd code in, and the machine does the rest. We just have to put their results into excel and send that to them. ... It looks like a lot when you first start, but it's really not bad. I think simply knowing how to

do this is cool because I can kind of work in any DHI lab anywhere when I graduate," said Jackson.

*Jeremiah Harrison is a senior broadcast journalism major*



Photo By Jeremiah Harrison

# HEERF funds arrive too late for senior deadlines

By Ma'Kalynn Richardson  
Staff Writer

On March 23, a message sent through email from President Smith announced the clearance of \$4.3 million in student balances for students enrolled in the Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 semesters through the support of the HEERF Award. Receiving this award was a great opportunity for students to continue their education without financial stress, but this benefit was not available to all.

Sophomore Jada Edwards is a childcare education major. She benefited from the HEERF funds award: the funds relieved her of stress towards the end of the year by allowing her to enroll in classes for the upcoming semester. Edwards feels as

though, "it helped more students focus on their grades instead of the bills. It was a big weight lifted off everyone's shoulders. I feel like the downfall was a lot of students and their parents took out loans."

Many students benefited from this opportunity and will not have to worry about their debt. Students who once had a bill are able to return and are eligible for enrollment after their debts were cleared.

However, students of all classifications who paid in advance hoping to have a chance at early enrollment will not be receiving the HEERF funds or a refund.

Davian Wilson, a junior corrections and criminal justice major, did not receive the same financial relief as many other students. He paid his bill in advance hoping to receive a chance at early enroll-

ment and dormitory options.

"I worked really hard this summer to provide an education for myself for Langston to take my money knowing they would clear everyone's bills.... it's just unfair to the people who already paid," said Wilson.

Langston University's graduating seniors were given a strict deadline of March 1st at the beginning of the year to pay their bills in order to take part in commencement. They also were not able to participate in the grant relief given to students on March 23rd.

After receiving this email students who weren't able to participate in graduation because of financial setbacks are now eligible to walk in commencement. The previous March 1st deadline no longer applies to graduating seniors, as the Office of the Registrar is accepting

late applications for graduation due to the timing of the HEERF award, but the students who already paid off their bills to graduate received no refund.

Wilson expressed frustration that he and others like him who paid off their bills don't get the benefit of the debt relief. "We are not Langston's top priority...as long as the money is coming in they are happy."

A Gazette survey of 100 on-campus students shows that not every student was able to receive the HEERF funds this semester and relied instead on family contributions or personal funds. 68% of students polled were able to receive assistance from the HEERF funds, while 32% were not eligible.

*Ma'Kalynn Richardson is a senior corrections and criminal justice major*

# Students advocate at Oklahoma State Capitol

By Jeremiah Harrison  
Staff Writer

Advocacy Day is a yearly event in which individuals and groups gather at their state's capitol to advocate for legislative policies and issues that affect lives. It is an opportunity for citizens to meet with elected officials and share concerns, experiences and views on important topics related to advocacy. This year, the all-day event was held on April 6, and was hosted by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

In the fall semester of 2022, Langston University students gathered with the intent of forming a student-led organization on campus called IGNITE. To prepare, a one-hour training session was required from the ACLU for LU students to be considered to participate in Ad-

vocacy Day. During the day of the event, our student advocates met with elected officials to speak with them. The focus was to abolish the death penalty, and student advocates were assigned the task of convincing elected officials to commit or to at least consider the objective. "This is a great way for the students to learn the value of representation in public policy. If they can figure out the proper steps to represent themselves now, the changes they'd like to see in the future will come with ease," said professor Andre Love, the advisor for the IGNITE organization.

Advocacy Day can be organized by advocacy organizations, non-profits, and community groups; the purpose is to provide a platform for citizens to have their voices heard and influence public policy deci-

sions. The event included seminars, training sessions and lobbying efforts. Also, Advocacy groups distribute informational materials and use social media to raise awareness about their cause and engage other citizens.

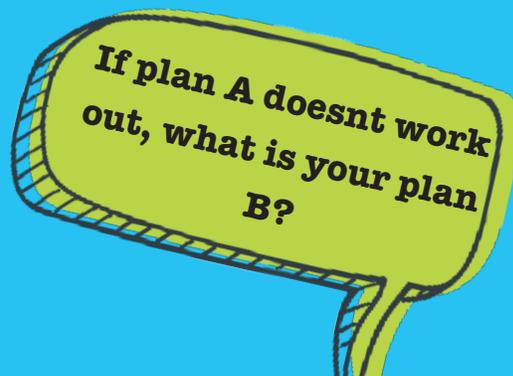
Advocacy Day is an important part of the democratic process and helps to ensure that the government is responsive to the needs and interests of its citizens. Furthermore, it empowers individuals to make a difference in underrepresented communities by encouraging civic engagement. Our students feel as if they represented Langston exceptionally well, and are confident they will continue to advocate for social justice and reform while continuing to make a considerable contribution toward our society.



Jeremiah Harrison is a senior broadcast journalism major

## Campus Question

Compiled by Jasilyn Spivey



Kierra Pelayo  
Sophomore  
Broadcast Journalism

My plan A would definitely be to go into media but if plan A doesn't work out my plan B would be maybe real estate to sell properties.



Sam Battle Jr  
Sophomore  
HPER

My Plan A is to become an athletic coach and a teacher preferably high school. My plan B if plan A doesn't work would be to go into more of a labor field like construction or like a moving company.



Jahree Sadler  
Sophomore  
Early Childhood Education

My plan A is, I'm a childhood education major. So I work with pre-k kids, and I want to have my own day-care but if it doesn't work out, I want to be a psychiatrist because being a psychiatrist helps not only, like helps with children, but it also helps with older people as well.



Na'Em Smith  
Freshman  
Business Major

Plan A is to get a degree in Accounting and Finance but, if that does not work out for me I will continue down the path of being an electrician.

## Opinion: Campus lacks communication about events

By Sharodon Jenkins  
Staff Writer

At Langston University, there has been an uproar about last minute communication from administration and registered student organizations. Students are saying that they are not being informed about events unless they are already near the area the event is being held or hearing about it word of mouth in close proximity. There has to be a change with how soon communication is sent out.

Kashia Cha, a senior agribusiness major, feels as if events aren't being advertised the way they used to be pre-Covid. She thinks a helpful way to increase timely communication is to explore other options to promote events. "I think that individuals can send their event flyers and even if they don't have a flyer, just send the event to the Office of Public Relations because they're the ones who send out mass emails to all of us." Cha also believes there is a lack of communication amongst organizations and administration. "I think a lot of it actually stems back to the pandemic because people are graduating and we can't host events, or easily have meetings without full attendance. Sometimes people aren't learning how to operate in their position, so it just kind of falls on the organization's activities and structure."

As far as people being passed the torch on positions, it should be highly encouraged for previous members to teach upcoming members how their positions work. By doing this, peers will become prepared and it seems like on campus a lot of students are not being prepared for their roles. So it would be best if the Office of Student Life hosted a workshop (in person, not virtual) to demonstrate how to use lion links, the website where events are approved and schedule, and also have one-on-ones with people in positions that are preparing to leave and those wanting to take on those positions so that they can be aware of how to run a successful organization.

Kayla Smith, a junior agriculture science major, feels like events are not being supported how they should. "It can seem like people are putting in events at the last minute, but also at the same



time the events are not being as prioritized as other organizations that may have events going on." Throughout the campus, it is common for organizations to mainly use social media to spread the word about their events. Smith feels that individuals will only come to events if it is posted on the Langston U Drip Instagram page and if it isn't then no one will really show up. Smith also believed that there is another way events can be promoted besides social media. "Events can be highlighted by having an alert system like we get when storms are coming but instead it can be for events occurring on campus. I know there are great organizations that don't get the same coverage compared to other organizations like the Ambassadors, we have a lot of people behind us, you know, so at least when it comes to other clubs like ASLS and others, they don't really get the same coverage from the same impact."

Samiya Robinson, a sophomore business finance major, thinks events are not being attended as highly because of campus engagement.

"It's been an issue throughout the semester where students just really don't come out for a lot of different things because they aren't informed about them. And they get notified the day before or the day of. So they just feel like oh, well, nobody else must be coming. So I shouldn't go and some individuals still miss out because they do not have social media." Robinson also shared how she feels communication can improve. "I just feel like if we continue doing word of mouth and placing flyers across campus will allow the campus to become visual and talkative again."

When it comes to ways to promote events, Langston definitely should return to word of mouth and hosting campus socials to engage the campus with the organizations. This will be helpful because it will allow students the chance to know what the various organizations are about and would serve as an opportunity for that organization to promote any upcoming events. Relying mainly on social media has proven to not be an effective way to gain support for events. It helps with promoting

but that should not be the only resort.

Communication that occurs sufficiently early and promptly is referred to as timely communication. According to Full Sail Leadership, "For communication to be truly timely, it should not only be useful but also occur at an opportune time. People in organizations need information early so they can act promptly. Moreover, when communication is timely in an organization or enterprise, its leaders can make the most of every opportunity." Basically timely communication can give an organization the opportunity to plan effectively and as for students will allow them to make arrangements to attend an event.

Moving forward, our campus should remember that we are the population that makes our campus active. The purpose of organizations is to help build community and if there is a lack of communication, there will be a lack of participation.

*Sharodon Jenkins is a junior broadcast journalism major*

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# How Langston softball players got here

By Sam Battle Jr.  
Staff Writer

If you ask Mia Uvaldo why she plays for the Langston softball team, she'll tell you it is because of her dad. He played baseball professionally for the Mexican leagues, and she has been playing since she was three years old. A first generation Mexican in America and a first-generation college student, Uvaldo thanks softball for helping her get to this point.

"College has always been a dream of mine since I was young," she said, and softball gave her that ability to fulfill that dream.

The softball team is one of five collegiate athletics for women offered at Langston. They have 17 people on their roster, eight of whom are seniors. They play a 48-game regular season schedule followed by the Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament at the end of the season. Midseason, they play at the Hosea Bell Red Dirt Classic, named for the Langston softball coach who passed away in 2021, held at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.

Mia Uvaldo is a sophomore business major from Dallas, Texas. She is a pitcher and utility player, which means she can play multiple positions defensively for the team. Prior to Langston, Uvaldo attended R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton, Texas. There, some of her accomplishments in softball included being named athlete of the year, being named all-state twice and being a two-time all-star throughout her high school career. A goal she has for herself is to become more confident in "all aspects of the game." A team goal she has is to make it to the Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament that follows the regular season.

Brysen Bartley is another player on the team and is a sophomore outfielder for the Lady Lions. Bartley started playing softball when she was 8 years old.

"I was pretty influenced by my cousins who played softball and wanted to do what they do," she said.

She is from Godley, Texas, where she attended and played softball at Godley High School.

For Bartley, softball has allowed her to step out of her comfort zone, giving her an outlet through tough times in life, and has introduced her to different people.

"It has brought me some of my closest friends in life," she said.

Some of her personal goals this season are to gain more confidence, be a supportive teammate no matter what and to improve her batting average. As a team, she wants to finish the season strong. After college she hopes she may play in an adult league, but she wants to make sure she continues to have "fun" playing softball now and any time later.

The players feel that sometimes softball does not get the same coverage as other Langston sports teams. They describe the attention as "non-existent," and say that some people around campus may not even know there is a softball team. The support they are given is little "compared to other sports on campus," according to player Kimbree Layton.

Layton is a freshman pitcher and outfielder who majors in psychology. She is from Enid,

Oklahoma, and attended Enid High School, where her accomplishments included being a 4-time letterman as well as being named all-conference. Layton started playing softball at the age of nine when she and her sister were looking for a sport to play during the summer, which ultimately led them to softball. Like her other teammates, she wants to become a more confident player and show that she can "succeed and be proud" of herself as she knows she is only a first-year student athlete with a lot of room to grow. Although she has no plan to continue playing softball past college ("I think it'll be time to hang my cleats up then,") she wants to continue to appreciate softball as it has brought her many different friendships and has given her some of her happiest memories. "I just want to continue to grow closer with my team and work towards the same goal," she said, as she continues to embrace her collegiate career and experiences.

Sam Battle Jr. is a Junior HPER major.

Photos courtesy of Kalista Layton



Brysen Bartley



Kimbree Layton



Mia Uvaldo

# Opinion: New gun laws affect Oklahoma colleges

By Taniya Mcqueen  
Staff Writer

According to a Washington Post database, there have been 17 school shootings since the start of 2023. In response to these incidents, Oklahoma has now advanced a bill to reduce requirements for teachers to carry firearms in the classroom.

In Oklahoma, a teacher can have a firearm if they have gone through training and received a concealed carry permit.

There was recently an alert sent out about an active shooter on the campus at the University of Oklahoma. Students were asked to shelter in place after OU campus safety reported, "OUPD is investigating possible shots fired on Norman Campus. Avoid South Oval area." Students in Langston University group chats sent out worried texts to the people over at the University of Oklahoma; many Langston students know OU students. Norman is located an hour from the LU campus and the students here are aware that a shooting could occur here at any moment. The OU safety twitter ac-

count also posted "there is an active shooter at the Van Vleet Oval. Take immediate action now. Run, Hide, Fight!" Just by reading this post it could make somebody very fearful. This is not the post anyone would want to read while trying to figure out their next safety steps. If anything, it adds more fuel to the fire.

As a student, I know being in this situation can be very scary. It is only the fourth month of the year. Counting the most recent shooting in Nashville, there have been at least 39 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 18 deaths. Today, kids fear for their lives when going somewhere they should feel safe. The last thing on a college student's mind should be worrying about watching their backs from a shooter.

Some schools may soon have metal detectors put in place to ensure the safety of students. One gun law in Oklahoma states that people are now authorized to legally purchase and carry a firearm if they are at least 21 years of age. In 2021, Langston University investigated gunshots that were

heard on campus. There was also a rifle found lying on a sidewalk near the scene. Many students and parents were very much concerned for their safety at that moment. An unnamed parent says, "That's not enjoyable in your life when you're a student in college trying to get an education." I am sure plenty of others agree with this opinion made.

It is unclear how new guns laws may affect the way teachers feel about their safety. If they take the opportunity to carry their weapon just in case of emergencies, some students may feel a little more eased. Meanwhile some students might not like the idea of a deadly weapon in the same room as them. With four months into the year and already 17 school shooting, I am sure there are more to come. Administration and school police departments must do everything in their power to ensure the safety of the students.

*Taniya Mcqueen is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.*



# Quiz Bowl team competes for National Championship

By Sam Gichohi  
Staff Writer

Langston University's Quiz Bowl team is competing in Los Angeles, California, for a 32-team Honda Campus All-Star National Championship Tournament. Quiz bowl is an academic competition based on different varieties of knowledge. Multiple teams compete in head-to-head trivia questions and have the chance to not only showcase their intellectual skills but also have a chance to earn grants for their school.

The Langston Quiz Bowl team has a long history of competing in Honda's National All-Star Tournament since 1992, having reached 2nd place in the past. Throughout the years, Langston's team has earned over \$122,000 in grants for the university from competing and has one of the highest attendance rates at the national championship tournament, but this year the team feels closer than ever

to winning the competition.

Sophomore technology major and captain of the team, Christian Mitchell said, "I have a good feeling about this year's team; we surprised a lot of competing schools at Prairie View, but I feel we can go a long way in this competition." During the National Qualifying Tournament, Langston was tied for first place in their division and was one of four teams to qualify for the playoffs out of 87 HBCUs.

"Being a part of a team and competing for something I love is great," Mitchell said. "I'm pretty introverted, but with Quiz bowl, it's a quick environment, a game that's easy enough to understand, and I feel like it's a way to connect with other people." The quiz bowl environment is not just a competition but a place to interact with other intelligent individuals and connect.

The Langston University Quiz bowl team consists of four play-

ers: Captain Christian Mitchell, Olivia Jenkins, Charles Bennett, Kaitlyn Mitchell, and the team is coached by Honors Program Coordinator Kyle Gregory. The team is also the youngest team competing in nationals with one sophomore and three freshmen.

Quiz bowl is not only focused on students but also the staff as well. Honors program coordinator Kyle Gregory has a history of competing in the Quiz bowl a part of the Langston University team.

"I enjoy coaching the team, this is like a full circle opportunity and I'm excited about what our team can accomplish especially with us being the youngest in the competition," Gregory said. During his time when he was on the team, Gregory was the all-time leading scorer in Langston Quiz Bowl history, winning a regional tournament and leading Langston University to the Sweet Sixteen twice as a player.

Effort and time taken out

by each member and coach is something that's valued. Freshman Olivia Jenkins said, "Balancing school work and studying for the tournament is definitely stressful, I do feel guilty sometimes because everyone depends on each other so if you aren't studying you're letting the rest of the team down." Constantly having to study information daily can be stressful but each team member is passionate about the love of the sport. Jenkins also said, "Being a part of this team gives me a chance to represent Langston's academic side of sports, which is something I'm proud of and hopefully during the tournament, we can create history." Langston is set to leave on April 15th, flying to Torrance California where the team will compete in the playoff brackets for Nationals and hopefully take home the win.

*Sam Gichohi is a junior broadcast journalism major.*

## 'More black people on the registry equals more black people saved'; Importance of ethnicity in bone marrow donation

By **Sharodon Jenkins**  
Staff Writer

Did you know that ethnicity matters when donating for bone marrow? Some students on campus were not aware of this or even what exactly bone marrow is. The ethnicity of a patient can help predict the likelihood of finding a match when it comes to matching human leukocyte antigen (HLA) types. This is because the HLA markers used in matching are inherited. The tissue types of some ethnic groups are more complex than others. As a result, a person of the same ethnicity may have the best chance of finding a donor. Be The Match is a global leader in bone marrow transplantation that matches patients with their donor match for a potentially life-saving marrow or blood stem cell transplant.

Mikeyla Robinson, a senior sociology major, had a friend that died from sickle cell and was not able to receive donations. "Witnessing that happen, just took a lot out of me because it happened very suddenly and I wish it was more education about how donations impact ethnicities." Robinson shared how she would like to see information shared amongst our peers. "I would like to see it being promoted on social media, even on television, and have more events discussing about bone marrow and how lack of donations can impact. I also believe it would be very influential to get doctors to come into black communities and talk about it further."

Robinson also thinks that opportunities are limited when it comes to individuals being proactive about their health. "In a low-income community, I've seen how doctors often dismiss African Americans and the struggles we face. Because I know I had something that went untreated for a while and they claimed they couldn't help me. And eventually, I had to seek treatment from a doctor

in the white community. So it took years for me to find something that would help me with it. And it is situations like this that lead to individuals not receiving the help they deserve because it is always pushed to the side or there is no awareness of the situation so that people can learn from it."

Adi Leyu Hail, a sophomore nursing major, recounts her experience interning so far with the organization Be The Match. "It's been a roller coaster, to say the least. That's how I'll put it, because it most emphatically has. It's similar to having high and low days. But it also educates you a lot on things like, not just bone marrow and getting people signed up for it, but also seeing people's perspectives on different things." To go further into depth, Hail also shared "We go over disparities and how they affect the black community in depth. Then you walk in and say, 'OK, look, I have a solution for this problem.' And we are the problem's solution, and how others react reveals a lot about our willingness and dedication to the various causes we support. Apart from that, I enjoy it. It's definitely difficult when you're tabling and talking to people and you ask them, 'Hey, are you interested in saving a life?' and they say, 'No,' or 'I can barely save my own.' It can be discouraging at times, but there are some days when people show genuine interest and brighten the day."

Hail was not always aware about bone marrow and its affects. "Going into the internship, I didn't know much about bone marrow, how it worked, or how it affected us. But one thing I've learned is that it disproportionately affects our community, particularly African Americans, who are at the bottom of the registry. We are 6% of the entire registry, which means that we are only likely to match someone 29% of the time. However, our white counterparts are more likely

to find a match." She also took the time to elaborate more about bone marrow. "Bone marrow is a semi-solid tissue found in the spongy (also called cancellous) portions of bones. So when it comes to registering to be a donor, you go to the registry and take a small questionnaire. After the questionnaire you take two swabs for ten seconds each. The lab is processed once you send it. We're curious about your tissue size and how it relates to your race. We will review it and add you as your tissue type. There are two ways to give: peripheral stem cell donation, which is similar to plasma donation, and blood donation."

Hail also shared more information about bone marrow as far as awareness. "I'd like to emphasize to my colleagues that the diseases we're attempting to treat with bone marrow, the things we're attempting to cure, the things we're attempting to improve, are the ones that have the most impact on us, right? And then there's the day when we're the solution to this problem, right? We are literally the solution if we discuss this specific health disparity. More black people on the registry equals more black people saved. It is directly related to it. So I'd have them think about it in that light. And I'd have to consider 'what if this was my mother and I wanted someone to be on the registry and be able to donate to them?' Because I believe that most people forget or are unaware of the importance of marrow. Family members are less likely to match with you, so my sister would have 25% chance of matching with me due to statistics, but I have a 29% chance of matching with a stranger. So I think that's what people, like my parents, need to understand: we're in the business of saving and impacting lives."

*Sharodon Jenkins is a junior broadcast journalism major.*



Dr. KJ. Abraham, Department of Biology led a team of faculty members (Dr. Reid, Dr. Davis and Dr. Howard) and twelve students from Langston University (LU) to participate in the 21st Annual Kansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Research (KINBRE) Symposium at Overland Park, Kansas on 14th and 15th January 2023. Ms. Hannah Wall (Oral) and four students, Ms. McKenzie Connor, Ms. Jihra James, Ms. Kayla Smith and Mr. McKinley Reagor (poster) presented their research work.

KINBRE Scholar Ms. Hannah Wall (top) won the first prize and a cash award of \$500 for the oral presentation at the symposium while two other Scholars, Ms. McKenzie Connor (bottom) and Mr. McKinley Reagor (middle) won poster prizes. The biomedical research experience has significantly impacted learning and research among undergraduate students at LU. The KINBRE program has given students excellent opportunities to present posters and oral presentations before an audience that includes scientists from biomedical industries and academic institutions involved in biomedical research. They have gained confidence and experience to excel and win prizes at conferences amid strong competition from several institutions including comprehensive universities. The undergraduate research experience has further motivated them to pursue a career in biomedical sciences.