



NEWS RELEASE

2017 Black Family Day at Davenport University

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Grand Rapids, Mich., May 5, 2017 – The Greater Grand Rapids Chapter of Jack and Jill of America in partnership with Grand Rapids African American Health Institute and Davenport University’s College of Health Professions is honored to provide **2017 Black Family Day: An African American Perspective on Healthy Cooking** featuring Trimell Hawkins, executive chef extraordinaire of the Black Heron Restaurant.

Sunday, May 7, 2017 @ 3:00 pm
Davenport University W.A. Lettinga Campus
South Dining Hall
6191 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Jack and Jill of America is a national organization for mothers with children ages 2-19 and is dedicated to nurturing future African American leaders by strengthening all children through leadership development, financial literacy, cultural awareness, community service, philanthropic giving and civic engagement. Black Family Day is an annual event that all Jack & Jill chapters across nation host during the month of event and designed to focus on and honor Black families.

“This year’s healthy cooking theme provided a wonderful collaboration for the University,” explained Dr. Karen Daley, Dean of DU’s College of Health Professions. “Davenport supports healthy lifestyles and habits for people of all backgrounds, and our food traditions, which can be distinct to different cultures, are an important piece.”

More than 250 adult and children participants will begin the event by viewing educational displays aimed at increasing understanding of the long-term and in some cases, generational impact of unhealthy eating habits and present alternative ways for preparing traditional African American dishes that are satisfying and flavorful. For their five-course meal, Chef Hawkins will guide participants in preparing one of the courses and he will demonstrate his preparations of one or more of the other courses.

“Our parents and children will roll up their sleeves measuring and mixing ingredients,” said Yvonne Briley-Wilson, Chair of the Grand Rapids Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. “This event

is not only intended to inspire and inform, but to provide our families with skills and resources they can use in their own homes and share with others.”

The event will also highlight the importance of higher education for helping families to reach their goals. Proceeds from this annual event will provide scholarships to deserving students for the Grand Rapids Historically Black Colleges & Universities annual college tour.

About [Davenport University](http://www.davenport.edu)

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving nearly 8,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience, and more than 80 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology, health professions and urban education. More information is available at www.davenport.edu.

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