



FAMU National Alumni Association, Inc. Northeast Region

Regional Vice President Report

July 31, 2026

Regional Officers

Vice President	- Sharon L. Duncan, Northern Virginia
Member-at-Large	- Andrea Turk, Washington DC Chapter
First Vice President	- Sebastian Alexander, New Jersey Chapter
Second Vice President	- Stephanie Griffith-Richardson, Washington DC Chapter
Secretary	- Kariman Lynum, NYC Long Island
Treasurer	- LaTaunya Johnson, Washington DC Chapter
Parliamentarian	- Monica Zeno-Martin, Massachusetts Chapter
Sergeant-at-Arms	- Dr. Regina Boateng, Northern Virginia
Chaplain	- Deboarh Payton Jones, New York Long Island Chapter
Chair of Nomination	- Armand Belcher, Northern Virginia Chapter
Strategic Planning	- Avis Payne, Greater Baltimore Chapter
NER Awards	- Lena Smalls, New Jersey Chapter
Chair of Membership	- Danzell Bussey, Washington DC Chapter

Chapter Presidents

Greater Baltimore – Tyrone Crosby
Massachusetts Chapter - Courtney Leonard, President
New York Chapter - Chantell Black
New York (Long Island) Chapter – Natalie Peters
New Jersey Chapter - Dale Favors
Philadelphia Chapter – Courtney Laws
Tidewater Virginia Chapter – Yolanda Thomas
Washington DC Chapter – Larry Rentz
Northern Virginia - Sharon L. Duncan

2026-2027 goals

Continue to work with chapters on various items with the national alumni association – e.g., IRS 990, membership, scholarships, etc.

Student Recruitment

Chapters will host **two** recruitment informational sessions for high school students and parents.

Scholarship Fund Growth: Develop and implement a regional scholarship fundraising strategy to increase financial support for deserving students attending Florida A&M University. Establish measurable fundraising goals, expand donor engagement, and organize signature fundraising initiatives to strengthen the region's scholarship impact.

Chapter Networking and Collaboration: Foster stronger connections among chapter leaders by creating opportunities to share best practices, exchange innovative ideas, and collaborate on programs and initiatives that enhance the success of chapters throughout the region.

Chapter Growth and Member Engagement: Design and execute a comprehensive membership growth and retention strategy that emphasizes chapter engagement, leadership development, and meaningful programming to increase active participation and strengthen each chapter.

Chapter Compliance: Develop a proactive regional compliance plan that provides chapters with the guidance, resources, and support necessary to achieve and maintain 100% compliance with all National Alumni Association policies, reporting requirements, and governance standards.

Government Relations: Strengthen the visibility and effectiveness of the Government Relations Committee by advancing its legislative and advocacy priorities, increasing chapter participation in government relations initiatives, and encouraging alumni engagement in issues that positively impact Florida A&M University and higher education.

- **Membership/ Engagement**

- Chapters will host a Rattler Roundup or some type of membership/engagement activity per year, with the purpose of increasing membership.
- Each chapter will increase their membership.
- Each chapter will have at least one chapter member on each NER committee.

<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
89 - New York Chapter	23	16	18
33 - NYC - Long Island Rattlers	13	19	14
64 - New Jersey Chapter	18	21	21
76 - Philadelphia Chapter	13	20	27
88 - Greater Baltimore	25	28	33
48 - Massachusetts Chapter	13	15	12
551 - Washington DC Chapter	147	128	148
90 - Northern Virginia Chapter	34	38	41
40 - Tidewater Virginia Chapter	13	11	10
1,079	299	296	324

Fundraising

- Chapters will host two fundraisers per year; one should be earmarked for scholarships.
- The NER will develop and execute at least two fundraisers this year with two specifically for scholarship.

Fundraising plays a crucial role in supporting our programs and scholarships. Every chapter is encouraged to follow this example by developing innovative, engaging, and mission-driven fundraising initiatives that reflect the spirit and excellence of our FAMULY.

- **Regional Image Building**

- Ensure all communications, including emails, newsletters, and social media posts, reflect the FAMU NAA brand.
- Share success stories and achievements of alumni.

- Post photos and videos from events and meetings.
- Invite notable alumni to speak or present.
- Participate in community service projects.
- Celebrate Milestones
- Recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of your members.

Effective communication is essential to building unity and sharing the impactful work happening throughout our region. In this membership year, I am committed to reengaging the national office to ensure that the events and achievements taking place in the Northeast are visible and celebrated across the entire organization.

Let's continue to tell our story loudly, proudly, and consistently.

- **Compliance**

- RVP and 1st VP will work with each chapter to ensure chapters in the Region achieves 100% compliance with the FAMU NAA for required activities and reporting.

- **Government Relations**

- Attempt to leverage our location in the Nation's capital to increase our impact on legislation that affects HBCUs.
- Follow FAMU's priorities to advocate for FAMU and HBCUs as appropriate.

NER Conference Rotation

2026	-	New York – Long Island
2027	-	New Jersey Chapter
2028	-	Tidewater VA Chapter
2029	-	Massachusetts Chapter
2030	-	Washington DC Chapter
2031	-	New York Chapter
2032	-	Northern Virginia Chapter

Government Relations

Government Relations is crucial to FAMU in several key reasons such as government decisions that often shape the policy landscape for our university, advocating for legislation that supports our university, opposing harmful bills. This is a critical area that need to grow especially the chapters within District, Maryland and Virginia.

A special thank you to all our Chapter Presidents and your dedicated core of Rattlers for making this an outstanding year for the NER. Your leadership, commitment, and tireless work have continued to move our Region forward and strengthen our collective impact.

The Northeast Region holds a special place in the history of the FAMU National Alumni Association as the first region established within our organization. It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Regional Vice President and to lead such a remarkable group of alumni.

I am incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together and profoundly grateful for the support, dedication, and energy each of you continues to give to our beloved Florida A&M University and the FAMU National Alumni Association.

Your work matters. Your leadership matters. And most importantly, your commitment to the Rattler legacy matters.

Together, we honor the legacy of those who came before us, celebrate the accomplishments of today, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has truly been my pleasure and an honor.

Sharon L. Duncan

Regional Vice President
Northeast Region



62nd FAMU National Alumni Association Northeast Regional Conference
1st Vice President Report
August 13-16, 2026

62nd Annual Regional Conference - August 13-16, 2026
Courtyard by Marriott, 1800 Privado Road, Westbury, NY 11590
Theme: Serving Love on Long Island: Northeast Rattlers on the Move

Committee Members: The Sebastian Alexander, C.C. Thomas, Deborah Payton-Jones, Donna Gilreath, Douglas Thomas, Harlan Penn, Kimani Foreman, Natalie, Peters, Stephanie Griffith-Richardson, Boris Hall, Lena Small, Ingrid Rousseau

For the Consumer

Rate: \$219 King & Double Beds (Per Night)
Parking: Complementary
Breakfast: \$18 PP - PD++ (\$10 from the region, \$8 from registration)
Lodging & Parking: \$438-\$657+tax (2-3 days)

Conference Registration

Jan-Feb \$175
Mar-Apr \$175
May-Jun \$175
Jul-Aug \$400

For the Region

Conference Room: \$499 per day x 2 = \$998
Boardroom: Complementary

Conference Room Details: 1,500 sq. ft., can accommodate up to 65 attendees.
Room includes setup and equipment including projector, screen, microphone, speaker.

Total Registrants: 53

Tentative Revenue: 9250.00 (Registration) +1000 (50/50, silent Action, Donations) = 10250.00

Tentative Expenses: \$3000 (Island Soul Catering) + \$864.30 (PMSI Promos - Towels & Notebook) + \$172.19 (Customlanyards.net - Badges & Lanyards) + \$400 (Catering/Desserts - Abby Made That.Co) + \$117.78 (Etsy - 3 Speaker Gifts) = \$4554.27

Tentative Profit: \$ 5695.73



Starting February 2026, the Conference Committee met every third Monday to plan the 2026 conference. The last two month, the committee met every Monday to make sure we were all set for the conference. It has been my absolute pleasure for LEGENDARY Long Island chapter to serve and be an intracule part of the planning of the 62nd conference and my second time planning one on behalf of the NER.

63rd Northeast Regional Conference will be hosted by the Historic New Jersey Chapter.



The **62ND** *Annual*
THE
NORTHEAST
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
FAMU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
★ HOSTED BY THE LEGENDARY LONG ISLAND CHAPTER ★

 **AUGUST 13-16, 2026**  in **WESTBURY, New York**

THEME:
SERVING LOVE ON LONG ISLAND:
NORTHEAST RATTLERS IN MOTION

REGISTER NOW AT
FAMUNAANER.ORG



FAMU
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NORTHEAST REGION est. 1964

The **62nd** ANNUAL
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CONFERENCE
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Serving LOVE ON LONG ISLAND:
Northeast Rattlers in Motion

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AUGUST 13-16, 2026
WESTBURY, NEW YORK
LONG ISLAND

Welcome to
LONG ISLAND
THE PARADISE ISLAND

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA
& TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

VISIT THE REGIONAL WEBSITE TODAY:
FAMUNAANER.ORG

THE LEGENDARY LONG ISLAND CHAPTER hosts the
62ND ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
in *Westbury, New York!*

Serving Love on Long Island:
NORTHEAST RATTLERS IN MOTION

SEE YOU IN WESTBURY! STRIKE! STRIKE! AND STRIKE AGAIN!

FAMU RATTLERS...
Let's Dine in:
STYLE
On Long Island!

GOOD FOOD
★
GOOD VIBES
★
GREAT COMPANY

PRIME
ON THE MILE
STEAK AND SEAFOOD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
6PM - 10PM

CONFERENCE REGISTRANT?
★ Your Cost: ★
\$50 PP

NOT A CONFERENCE REGISTRANT?
★ Your Cost: ★
\$90 PP

ONE FAMILY.
ONE PURPOSE.
ONE FUTURE.

340 WOODCLEFT AVE
FREEPORT, NY 11520

VISIT **FAMUNAANER.ORG**
to purchase tickets

Great Food. Great Fellowship. Rattler Style!
COME HUNGRY. LEAVE HAPPY. IT'S A RATTLER THING!

Investing in Future Rattlers

2025–2026 Annual Scholarship Report

"Building Opportunity. Investing in Future Rattlers."

Stephanie Griffith Richardson, Second Vice President
Scholarship & Recruitment Chair

Executive Summary

The Northeast Region continues to strengthen its commitment to Florida A&M University by expanding scholarship opportunities, enhancing recruitment partnerships, and developing sustainable chapter programs that support student success.

During the 2025–2026 program year, the Region experienced measurable growth in scholarship participation and financial investment. Twenty students submitted applications for the Northeast Region Scholarship Program, including eleven graduating high school seniors and nine currently enrolled FAMU students. Following a comprehensive review process, three regional scholarships were approved. One recipient later declined the award after receiving additional institutional funding, resulting in two \$1,500 scholarships being awarded to one incoming freshman and one collegiate student.

Beyond the regional scholarship program, chapter scholarship efforts continued to demonstrate the Northeast Region's commitment to investing in future Rattlers. Fifteen students received scholarships through chapter programs totaling \$24,500. Combined with regional scholarship awards, the Northeast Region invested **\$27,500** in student scholarships during the 2025–2026 academic year.

The Region also strengthened its partnership with Florida A&M University's Office of Admissions during a year marked by leadership transition and the implementation of new recruitment certification requirements. These efforts reinforced the importance of accurate admissions information, alumni engagement, and continued collaboration between the University and regional leadership.

As the Northeast Region looks ahead, our focus remains on expanding scholarship opportunities, strengthening chapter scholarship programs, improving scholarship transparency, and increasing annual scholarship investments to **\$35,000 by 2027**.

Scholarship Impact

Regional Scholarship Program

The Northeast Region Scholarship Committee completed its annual scholarship review process during the spring of 2026.

Scholarship Applications

- Total Applications: **20**
- High School Applicants: **11**
- Collegiate Applicants: **9**

Applications were evaluated using a standardized rubric that considered:

- Financial Need
- Academic Achievement
- Leadership
- Community Service
- Employment Responsibilities
- Overall Student Engagement

Three scholarships were initially approved.

Following consultation with Dr. William Hudson, Vice President for Student Affairs, one recipient was determined to have received sufficient institutional funding and declined the regional award. The committee subsequently awarded two regional scholarships of **\$1,500** each to one incoming freshman and one currently enrolled FAMU student.

The committee extends its appreciation to each reviewer whose thoughtful evaluations ensured a fair, transparent, and student-centered selection process.

Regional Scholarship Investment

Northeast Region Scholarship Dashboard

Metric	2025–2026
Scholarship Applications	20
High School Applicants	11
Collegiate Applicants	9
Regional Scholarships Awarded	2
Regional Scholarship Investment	\$3,000
Chapter Scholarship Recipients	15
Chapter Scholarship Investment	\$24,500
Total Regional Investment	\$27,500

Building Scholarship Capacity Across the Region

One of the Northeast Region's strategic priorities is ensuring that every chapter participates in supporting future and current Florida A&M University students.

Currently, six chapters maintain active scholarship programs.

Established Scholarship Programs

- Washington, DC
- Northern Virginia
- New Jersey
- Baltimore
- Philadelphia
- Massachusetts (Book Scholarship)

Scholarship Programs Under Development

Long Island

Long Island has established scholarship development as a chapter priority and is actively building fundraising capacity with the goal of launching a scholarship program within the next year.

Tidewater

Tidewater continues strengthening chapter infrastructure while developing sustainable fundraising efforts to establish an initial book scholarship supporting students throughout the Hampton Roads region.

New York

New York has identified scholarship support as an important chapter priority. While scholarship funding has been identified, continued membership stabilization and chapter infrastructure improvements remain necessary before launching a sustainable scholarship program.

The Northeast Region remains committed to assisting these chapters through mentorship, fundraising strategies, and technical assistance.

Chapter Scholarship Investments

Chapter	Awards	Investment
Washington, DC	7	\$13,000
Northern Virginia	2	\$4,000
New Jersey	2	\$4,000
Baltimore	1	\$2,000
Philadelphia	3	\$1,500
Massachusetts	Established Book Scholarship	No award issued

Collectively, Northeast Region chapters awarded **15 scholarships totaling \$24,500**, demonstrating the Region's continued commitment to supporting student success beyond the regional scholarship program.

Recruitment & University Partnerships

The Northeast Region continues to strengthen its partnership with Florida A&M University's enrollment leadership while advocating for improved communication, transparency, and student support.

During the reporting period, the University experienced a significant leadership transition with the departure of **Dr. Juan Alexander**, who accepted the position of **Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Services at Texas Southern University**.

During the 2025 Northeast Regional Conference, Dr. Alexander committed to improving communication surrounding scholarship processing and disbursement. His vision included serving as a liaison between the University and the Northeast Region to bridge communication gaps between the National Alumni Association, the Foundation, Student Accounts, and local chapters.

Currently, scholarship funds typically require **60–90 days** to move from the National Alumni Association through the Foundation before posting to student accounts. Once funds leave the Foundation, chapters have limited visibility into the status of scholarship disbursements. This lack of transparency often results in students and parents contacting chapters for updates that local leaders are unable to provide.

Although Dr. Alexander's departure temporarily paused these discussions, the Northeast Region remains committed to continuing this work with newly appointed University leadership.

The Region continues collaborating with **Dr. William Hudson, Vice President for Student Affairs**, to verify scholarship eligibility and prevent institutional over-awarding while maintaining open communication regarding student support.

National Scholarship Update

The Northeast Region remains actively engaged in national scholarship conversations.

Although my committee appointment ended on June 30, 2025, during my service on the National Scholarship Committee, the committee advocated for scholarship allocations that more accurately reflected the growing number of out-of-state applicants.

For the 2025–2026 cycle, the National Alumni Association awarded **\$129,392** in scholarships supporting **140 students** from multiple states across the country.

Preliminary data for the 2026–2027 scholarship cycle reflects growing student demand:

- **389 scholarship applications**
- **151 out-of-state applicants**
- Proposed scholarship funding of **\$75,000**, representing an approximate **42% reduction** from the previous year.

This growing disparity between student need and available scholarship funding underscores the importance of continued advocacy for equitable scholarship support and increased investment in student success.

At the time of this report, final national scholarship recommendations had not yet been announced nor has the increased scholarship budget line item been approved.

Looking Ahead: Vision 2027

The Northeast Region remains committed to strengthening scholarship and recruitment throughout our nine-state region.

Our priorities include:

- Increase annual scholarship investments to **\$35,000**.
- Support active scholarship initiatives in all nine states.
- Expand regional scholarship applications and outreach.
- Strengthen sustainable fundraising across chapters.
- Improve scholarship transparency and tracking.
- Continue strengthening partnerships with University leadership.
- Support student recruitment through scholarship investment and alumni engagement.

Scholarships remain one of the most visible demonstrations of the FAMU National Alumni Association's commitment to educational access and student success. By investing in students today, we are investing in the future leadership, legacy, and excellence of Florida A&M University.



FAMU National Alumni Association Northeast Regional Annual Meeting

Parliamentarian Report August 2026

During the 2025-2026 year, I continued to advise the Regional Vice President, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Northeast Region regarding parliamentary procedure as needed.

As a point of privilege, as I end my tenure as parliamentarian, am I extremely grateful to Vice President Duncan, First Vice President Alexander, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Executive Board for your unyielding support. It has been my honor to serve the Region as parliamentarian. I look forward to supporting the next parliamentarian as needed and to continuing to serve our illustrious alma mater!

FAMU Forever!

Monica L. Zeno-Martin