



&
PRESENTS:



THE WEST POINT SOCIETY
OF PHILADELPHIA

WEST POINT

Leadership & Ethics

WORKSHOP



Philadelphia, PA | September 26th, 2024
9 am - 2:30 pm

Workshop Locations:

Leadership & Ethics

Martin Luther King High School
6100 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19138"

STEM

Carver Engineering
& Science Middle School
1600 West Norris Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

ABOUT WEST POINT LEADS

West Point's Leadership Ethics And Diversity in STEM (LEADS) workshops seek to improve access to educational programs and increase academic youth and workforce developmental outcomes for primarily underrepresented populations and underserved communities. The West Point LEADS Workshop Program was designed to engage students at the middle school and lower high school levels (ages 11-15).

This commitment is in response to the national need to increase diverse STEM competent leaders, as a shortage of talent threatens the country's ability to drive innovation, compete internationally, and protect national security.

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) movement is in full gear nationwide. The West Point LEADS Program takes this endeavor a step further and has developed a series of workshops aimed at promoting STEM among middle schools across the country with a specific emphasis on diverse student populations. During these workshops, West Point faculty and cadets work with students to design bridges, build robots, and fly drones after calculating flight paths, among many other things. These hands-on workshops spark interest in STEM among young students and introduce them to related careers.



MS. LISA BENITEZ

Chief Engagement and Retention Officer
United States Military Academy West Point

Lisa M. Benitez is the Chief Engagement & Retention Officer at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. In this role within the Office of Engagement & Retention, she serves as the Senior Advisor and Consultant to the Superintendent, Chief of Staff, as well as the liaison to top management officials on synchronizing and leveraging academy engagement and retention efforts that focus on attracting, hiring, retaining, and developing an inclusive and cohesive staff, faculty, and Corps of Cadets; and engages West Point organizations, DoD, Army partners, and the external community in support of West Point's mission to build, educate, train, and inspire leaders of character.

Prior to becoming the Chief Engagement & Retention Officer, she held various key leadership positions at the West Point Association of Graduates, within the Office of Development. She served as a Director in various capacities over 23 years culminating as a Senior Director. In June 2020 she transitioned to manage the Diversity & Inclusion Outreach Programs for the United States Military Academy's Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity. In this role, she engaged with leaders in key, priority cities to provide STEM, Leadership and Ethics training to middle school and high school students. In this capacity she also worked closely with various alumni and alumni affinity groups that support diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

A native New Yorker, Ms. Benitez earned a Bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy in 1988, a Master's degree in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2016 and a Diversity & Inclusion HR Certificate from Cornell University in 2021. As a cadet she earned All-American Honors in both Cross Country and Track & Field. She was inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame in 2023. Upon graduation from West Point she served as an officer in the 43rd Engineer Battalion in Fort Benning, GA. She continues to compete in national and international running competitions with her husband, COL (Ret) Michail "Gus" Huerter. In her free time she enjoys traveling, gardening, reading and helping others. She serves on the board of West Point Women and as an adjunct advisor to the Urban Dream Initiative Board.



KEN WONG

President of CIG Asia, Ltd., Principal NavPac Advisors, LLC,
& Civilian Aide to the Secretary of Army (CASA) for Pennsylvania

The multi-dimensional Kenneth Wong represents the promise, as well as the reality of one of America's founding principles as he opens new avenues for business opportunity and active civic engagement.

Mr. Wong is a principal in NavPac Advisors, LLC that brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to both the US and China markets. NavPac Advisors, LLC, under the leadership of Mr. Wong, assists US entities navigate through the complexities of developing strategies and building working relationships in China. In a very short period of time, entities in China realized that NavPac Advisors, LLC could do the same for them in the US market. Today, NavPac Advisors, LLC successfully "navigates entities across the Pacific" utilizing their many skills and established relationships to achieve their clients' goals and objectives.

For over 30 years, Mr. Wong can be credited with combining his business acumen, cross-cultural facility and focused management tactics to establish CIG Asia, Ltd., a successful Philadelphia, PA-based national property and casualty insurance brokerage firm. Under his direction as president, the company provides its diverse client base with the coverage and advice required to weather the vagaries of a complex business environment.

In 2009, Mr. Wong with the assistance of some Wall Street colleagues, founded Covenant Group of China, a US based publicly traded holding company that is partnering with China based SME's that are successfully operating in the booming China domestic economy. Mr. Wong served as the president of Covenant Group of China. In addition to knowledge of the China domestic market trends, Mr. Wong has a very strong working relationship with the People's Republic of China government both in the United States and in China.

Mr. Wong's commitment to full inclusion of Asian Americans and new Americans living, working and doing business in the United States in general, and the Delaware Valley, in particular, has landed him in numerous leadership positions. As example, Mr. Wong, from 2004-2007, was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as a commissioner on the President's Advisory Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders where he focused on economic strategies and community development. Through Mr. Wong's efforts, both in Washington, DC and across the Nation many doors of opportunity have been opened for Asian American economic development for large and small businesses.

In May of 2012, Governor Tom Corbett of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appointed Mr. Wong to the Chairmanship of his Advisory Commission for Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders. Mr. Wong's agenda includes both Economic and Leadership Development for the Asian American & Pacific Islander communities.

On April 19, 2017, Mr. Wong was appointed by Acting Secretary of the Army, Mr. Robert Speer, as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. In this role, Mr. Wong is a liaison between the Office of the Secretary of the Army and the citizens of the United States.

Locally, his civic participation includes service on the boards of Chestnut Hill College; University of the Arts; Williamson College School of the Trades; the American Red Cross for Eastern Pennsylvania and serving as the chair of the Services to the Armed Forces Committee; The Philadelphia Sports Congress; AMSUS – Society of Federal Health Professionals; the Philadelphia Convention & Visitor's Bureau; Board of Managers of the Central High School of Philadelphia; American Heritage Federal Credit Union; Chairman of the Board of USA Badminton- National Governing Body of Badminton- Member of the US Olympic Committee. Mr. Wong also proudly serves as a senior advisor to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Ascend, a national Pan Asian professional organization with the mission of developing effective leaders and promoting Asian Americans in corporate America.

Mr. Wong is a member of the Union League of Philadelphia and participates on the Armed Services Council

Mr. Wong lives in Philadelphia and is the father of two daughters.



SENATOR SHARIF STREET

Keynote Speaker
Pennsylvania State Senator

Senator Sharif Street, elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2016, represents the Third Senatorial District of Philadelphia, which encompasses a population of over 240,000 people in North Philadelphia, Nicetown, Lower Germantown, Logan, Olney, Fern Rock, Crescentville, East Oak Lane, East Wyoming, East Hunting Park, Franciscville, Fairmont, Lawncrest and Melrose Park Garden.

An attorney by profession, Sharif began his public career as a community activist organizing a Town Watch group while in law school. He graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, where he served as president of the Penn Law Democrats. He is currently a member of the American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and National Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Philadelphia Barristers Association, for which he served as a board member in 2002.

Before being elected Senator, Sharif worked as a staffer for the Pennsylvania Senate, serving as the Chief Legislative Advisor to the Democratic Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Committee and had the primary responsibility for overseeing legislative, housing, environmental and economic development initiatives. During this time, he facilitated the creation of Philadelphia Green Communities, the first environmental educational program of its kind implemented in a major U.S. city. Sharif helped to found and served on the Board of Directors of Urban Solutions, a non-profit corporation created to address the health needs of traditionally under-served communities.

Sharif currently serves as the Democratic Chair of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

Sharif also serves as a member of the Senate Appropriations, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Communications & Technology and Urban Affairs & Housing committees. He is a co-chair of the bipartisan and bicameral Crime Prevention Caucus, co-chair of the University of Pennsylvania caucus, member of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission and served previously as Democratic Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform.

As Senator, Sharif has dedicated himself to issues that make the lives of Pennsylvanians better. He was instrumental in the creation of PENNIE, Pennsylvania's state-based health insurance exchange, and created the Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program in the 2019-2020 state budget. Sharif has written and introduced legislation to combat climate change, reform Pennsylvania's criminal justice system, and is the main co-sponsor of Pennsylvania's first bipartisan bill to legalize and regulate adult-use cannabis.

A known advocate of affordable housing and community development, Sharif has a depth of knowledge and experience in dealing with eminent domain acquisition, low-income housing, women and minority issues, and disadvantaged business certifications. He has served on the Council for HOPE VI, has been a featured presenter at the National Public Housing Resident Empowerment Conference, and has served as managing director of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley.

Additionally, Sharif has served on the board of the North Central Philadelphia Empowerment Zone's Housing Trust Fund and was a member of the North-Central Empowerment Zone's Community Advisory Committees for Housing, Crime and Public Safety, and Economic Development. He has served as a board member of the Columbia North YMCA and is a current member of the Philadelphia's African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs Commission.

In 2018, Sharif was elected Vice-Chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party where he helped oversee the Democratic victories in the 2018 midterms and the election of President Biden in 2020. In 2022, Sharif made history when he was elected the first Black chairperson of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party during Juneteenth weekend.

Sharif is a father of five children and lives in North Philadelphia with his wife, April.

LEADERSHIP & ETHICS AGENDA

MORNING SESSION

Morning Moderator: Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq. *West Point Class of 2010*

Presentation of the Colors

Martin Luther King High School Color Guard

Lift Every Voice and Sing and National Anthem

Mrs. Ashli Allen

Opening Remarks

Mrs. Keisha Q. Wilkins—Principal Martin Luther King High School

Ethical Coin Toss Ice Breaker

Mrs. Racine Randolph

UDI Chief Human Capital & Academic Outreach Officer,

West Point Class of 2000

Song of Inspiration

Mrs. Ashli Allen

Words from PA CASA

Mr. Kenneth Wong, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

Keynote Speaker

Senator Sharif Street, Pennsylvania State Senator

Song of Dedication

Mrs. Ashli Allen

West Point Admissions

1LT Mark Madden *West Point Class of 2021*

Cadet Introductions

West Point Cadets

Workshops

Cadet Led

(Lunch will be delivered to the classrooms)

LEADERSHIP & ETHICS AGENDA (CONT.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Afternoon Moderator: Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq. *West Point Class of 2010*

Drumline Performance

Philadelphia Military Academy Drumline

Student Led Ethical Decision-Making Skits & Talent Showcase

Students

Announcement of Leader Amongst Leaders Winners

West Point Society of Philadelphia

Announcement of Honorable Living Essay Contest Winners

Mrs. Domeca Newsome UDI Chief of Marketing, *West Point Class of 2010*
and Mrs. Litrena Gordon-Staton, UDI Executive Administrator

West Point Chief Engagement & Retention Officer

Ms. Lisa M. Benitez *West Point Class of 1988*

Conclusory Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Todd Kishpaugh,
President of the West Point Society of Philadelphia,
West Point Class of 1996

Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq.
Founder and CEO of UDI, *West Point Class of 2010*

STEM WORKSHOP AGENDA

Cadet Introductions

LTC Delante E. Moore, *West Point Class of 2005*

Assistant Professor Department of
Mathematical Sciences

STEM Workshop

Break into Pods and Begin Introduction to Mechanical Circuits

Lunch

Students and Cadets

Remarks

Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq.

Founder and CEO of UDI, *West Point Class of 2010*

Mechanical Circuits

Students will Explore, Design, and Construct Intermediate and Advanced Mechanical Circuit

Awards

LTC Delante E. Moore, *West Point Class of 2005*

Assistant Professor Department of
Mathematical Sciences

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STRONGHOLD

— G R O U P —



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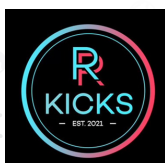
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THANK YOU CANNOT BE SAID ENOUGH!



ABOUT URBAN DREAM INITIATIVE

Our urban communities represent the rich multi-cultural heritage of this nation and its vast potential. Too often that potential is squandered, rather than leveraging diversity to solve the nation's and world's problems. Entirely too many in our urban communities suffer from poverty, mental illness, substance abuse, and violence.

This epidemic has robbed members of the urban community of a sense of hope and self-esteem, and robbed the nation of a great deal of its human capital's potential. The Urban Dream Initiative believes that this epidemic can be greatly reduced via focused activities and partnerships to address root causes. Urban Dream Initiative was founded in 2019 by Ms. Ebony N. Thomas, Esq. to make a positive impact on these issues.

The mission of the Urban Dream Initiative is to reverse the effects of urban decay and restore our urban communities to powerful centers of multiculturalism, opportunity, and prosperity. Our vision is to leverage corporate, private and government partnerships and resources to:

U—Unlock potential of urban communities through educational outreach focused on combating illiteracy, mental illness, and substance abuse.

R—Restore urban identity through community improvement and cultural enrichment programs geared towards building a sense of community pride, shared heritage, and shared aspirations.

B—Build opportunity via corporate and private partnerships that take advantage of the diversity of the urban community to provide economic growth and prosperity.

A—Accelerate improvement of urban communities through a structured and focused approach that is initially limited in scope, but ultimately broadens to rapidly achieve and build upon successes.

N—Navigate political, legal, and cultural barriers to achieve unity of purpose and goals in urban communities through focused sessions with community leadership, political leaders, and law enforcement to develop an urban agenda and action plans that involve all parties.



EBONY N. THOMAS

Founder and CEO of the Urban Dream Initiative

Ebony Nicole Thomas is a Major in the United States Army. She currently serves as the Command Judge Advocate for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Before her current position, she served as the Deputy Legal Advisor for the People First Task Force, at the Pentagon. Before that, she received her LL.M. in military law with a focus on government contracts from the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Before that, she served as a Military Justice Advisor and Special Assistant United States Attorney for Aberdeen Proving Ground. Ms. Thomas also formerly served as an Army Prosecutor, a Legal Assistance and Operational Law Attorney, and an Administrative Law Attorney in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Ms. Thomas is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her grandmother and mother, both of whom were teachers, taught her at an early age the importance of education. Ms. Thomas received her primary and secondary education through public and private schools. After high school, she went on to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, then at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and was then accepted into the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, graduating in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Management with a focus on Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, Ms. Thomas commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps. In 2011, Ms. Thomas deployed to Iraq for 11 months to support Operation New Dawn. In 2013, she applied and was accepted into the Army's Funded Legal Education Program, and graduated in 2017 from the Marshall-Wythe Law School at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with a Juris Doctor degree. That same year, she received her license to practice law in Pennsylvania. In 2022, Ms. Thomas was admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

Major Thomas' awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC); Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC); Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Army Staff Identification Badge; and Parachutist Badge.

Ms. Thomas' mission in life is to serve not only her country but also her community – thus the Urban Dream Initiative was born.



Formed in 1927 as the Philadelphia Section of the Association of Graduates, the West Point Society of Philadelphia has been promoting the United States Military Academy for almost 100 years. They are one of the oldest West Point Societies in the world. The Society helps serve local graduates, Cadets, families and other Veterans in the Greater Philadelphia area through fellowship, networking and communications. The West Point Society of Philadelphia is designated a Distinguished Society by the Association of Graduates for its support to the United States Military Academy, fellow graduates and its local community.

