



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sigma Lambda Upsilon LADYS-Charlottesville Wins Public Service Award**

**New York, NY** – As the academic year closed, the Sigma Lambda Upsilon LADYS (Leadership, Advancement, and Development of our Young Sisters) Program in Charlottesville, Virginia was awarded the \$2,000 University of Virginia Coffelt Public Service Award to help fund the mentorship of young women of color between the ages of 14-18 in the area. The award will help fund the program for the 2016-2017 academic year, as well as allow for the introduction of a LADYS scholarship awarded to mentees of the program.

Nationally established by Sigma Lambda Upsilon in New York in Fall 2001, Hermanas from the Alpha Rho Chapter of Sigma Lambda Upsilon, alongside a professionally diverse Board of Directors, and nine mentors launched the LADYS Program in Charlottesville in September 2015. LADYS intends to empower young women of color ages 14-18 through one-on-one mentoring, interactive workshops, field trips, and now scholarship.

This past year, “LADYS,” as the mentees are referred to in the program, learned about college preparation, increased their self-esteem, and took a trip to Washington D.C. While, the LADYS gain a lot from their participation, the mentors also mutually benefit by learning to serve as role models for other young women with aspirations.

The national support and local commitment to the LADYS Program in Charlottesville ensures the program’s sustainment. Learn more about LADYS Charlottesville at [cvilleladysprogram.wix.com/ladysprogramcville](http://cvilleladysprogram.wix.com/ladysprogramcville).

**Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc.**, Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc. was founded on December 1, 1987 at Binghamton University with the purpose of providing a voice and means for empowerment to women everywhere. The sorority provides sisterhood and support while also promoting academic excellence, service to the community, leadership and cultural enrichment to college-educated and professional women. Dedicated to uplifting traditionally marginalized communities, the sorority challenges the status quo through programming and civic engagement initiatives that are both exemplary and unique. For more information visit: [www.sigmalambdaupsilon.org](http://www.sigmalambdaupsilon.org)

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