


# The History: Divine Nine (D9)

In the early 1900s, racial integration in North American universities was a constant struggle for African American students. Often ostracised by the white student body, and banned from joining most social organizations on campus, Black students unified, and created intercollegiate Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs) to assist each other in coping with these struggles. At the time, opportunities for quality education and professional mobility usually excluded people who were not of European descent; thus, D9 membership became exceedingly helpful in the struggle for unity and support for Black people in collegiate and professional spaces. Many of the most iconic African-Americans of the 20th century are members of Divine Nine organizations, which continue to nurture the growth of their members in the present-day and strengthen traditions for the continued legacy.


## The Divine Nine Organizations Membership:

**Alpha Phi Alpha**  
 Founded in **1906**  
 Members **290,000 +**




Martin Luther King  
 Thurgood Marshall  
 Jesse Owens

**Alpha Kappa Alpha**  
 Founded in **1908**  
 Members **300,000 +**



Toni Morrison  
 V.President Kamala Harris  
 Maya Angelou

**Kappa Alpha Psi**  
 Founded in **1911**  
 Members **160,000 +**




Dr. Ralph David Abernathy  
 John Singleton  
 Colin Kaepernick

**Omega Psi Phi**  
 Founded in **1911**  
 Members **250,000 +**



Michael Jordan  
 Langston Hughes  
 Steve Harvey

**Delta Sigma Theta**  
 Founded in **1913**  
 Members **350,000 +**




Angela Davis  
 Shirley Chisholm  
 Aretha Franklin

**Phi Beta Sigma**  
 Founded in **1914**  
 Members **200,000 +**




Hosea Williams  
 George Carver  
 Rep. John Lewis

**Zeta Phi Beta**  
 Founded in **1920**  
 Members **125,000 +**




Sheryl Underwood  
 Zora Neale Hurston  
 Dionne Warwick

**Sigma Gamma Rho**  
 Founded in **1922**  
 Members **100,000 +**



Hattie McDaniels  
 Anna Maria Horsford  
 Kelly Price

**Iota Phi Theta**  
 Founded in **1963**  
 Members **30,000 +**



Spencer Christian  
 Terrence C. Carson  
 Harry C. Alford

