



Programs Update

Moton Fellowship Program

As the Moton Fellowship Program comes to an end, the Emerging Leaders Program is gearing up to begin in the Fall. The Moton Fellows completed the program with a group presentation on July 22, 2021.

Their hard work and culmination of skills exercised in the program resulted in their final presentation and contributed towards a grant proposal. We look forward to keeping you updated with our new program developments.

Alumni Update



ELP Class of 2020

Please join us in congratulating Bobbie Newell, Jr., Emerging Leaders Program Alumnus, Class of 2020. Bobbie recently graduated from Virginia Union University with his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and received the honors of magna cum laude. Mr. Newell received a full scholarship to obtain both his Masters in Divinity (MDiv) and Doctorate in Ministry (DMin) from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University (STVU).

Mr. Newell was recently appointed as the Minister to Youth, Young Adults, and College Students at Cedar Street Baptist Church of God in Richmond, Virginia. Congratulations, Bobbie!

Happy Birthday, Dr. Moton

August 26, 1867



By Brian McGovern

Born to intelligent former slaves on August 26, 1867, Robert Moton grew up in the kitchen house at Pleasant Shade plantation near Rice, Virginia. When he became a man, he so impressed the administration at Hampton Institute that the school's founder saw fit to appoint him as Commandant of Cadets, making "Major" Moton the highest-ranking African American faculty member up to that time. During his quarter century at Hampton, he was invited by famed Tuskegee Institute Principal Booker T. Washington to accompany Washington's party on his famous goodwill tours of the country. Washington remarked of Major Moton: "...he makes you love him." After Washington died in 1915, Moton had the opportunity to spend a few hours with Tuskegee Trustee—and former president—Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt left the meeting convinced that Moton was the man who should succeed Washington.

At Tuskegee, Moton—by now Dr. Moton—introduced bachelor's degree programs, expanded Tuskegee, lobbied five sitting U.S. presidents, and stood firm when the Ku Klux Klan threatened his life, and built bridges with all races. A man of tact and kindness, he was beloved even by his critics. When Dr. Moton retired, Tuskegee Institute was considered by many to be the most successful and revered Black institution in the world.

The legacy of Robert Moton lives on today. His retirement home in Gloucester, Virginia has been called the "Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement" as leaders gathered on its beautiful grounds to reflect upon strategies for change. There, Martin Luther King and John Lewis and many others walked in Dr. Moton's footsteps along the long and arduous journey toward full equality. In this twenty-first century, that journey continues in the same spirit of good will that Dr. Moton exemplified a century ago.

Sources:
MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS AND COLLECTIONS:
Moton Family Papers. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Private collection of Robert Moton papers. Mary Booth Bright, Gloucester, VA.; Robert Russa Moton Papers. Tuskegee University Archives, Tuskegee, AL.; Scrapbook of biographical information on Robert Moton and Holly Knoll, The Gloucester Institute, Gloucester, VA.