



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

ITHACA, NY -- The Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) is disheartened and concerned by the news of the attack that occurred in Collegetown on a Black male Cornell student on Friday, September 15, 2017. Our thoughts, prayers, and support are with the victim, his family, and his community of peers on campus.

Acts of hate such as this and the recent incident against Latinx students outside of the Latino Living Center have no place in the Cornell community. We are confident University administration will take immediate action in these matters and that justice will be served. We urge administration to work with students and student leaders from Black Students United and other underrepresented student organizations to discuss their concerns and the work that needs to be done to ensure that these students not only feel safe on campus, but truly feel part of what should be an inclusive campus environment.

Incidents like this are not completely unprecedented. Cornell's history, like other predominately white institutions, has seen its share of racial incidents against Black and other underrepresented students. As alumni, we often reminisce on many great memories, but also remember the darker days our community faced in our time on the hill. In each instance, our community came together, along with supportive faculty, staff, alumni, families, and members of the local Ithaca community, to make our voices heard and to work with the university administration to ensure that our needs were addressed. CBAA pledges our continued support to Black Students United in their collective efforts to make the campus a safe, inclusive environment.

The university is a place where students from around the world come to study and learn from one another. During their stay, their families expect them to be safe and to graduate enriched by their experience. Hate crimes and violence have no place in an educated community. The Cornell Black Alumni Association expects the university will work swiftly and diligently in its continued efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment free of bias and racism where all students can thrive.

Alumni will return to campus for Cornell's Trustee Council Annual Meeting and Homecoming October 19-22nd where we will celebrate Ujamaa's 45th Anniversary. We expect that the university will have taken prompt and decisive action to address these issues.

Founded in 1976, the Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) was conceived as an organization devoted to providing a communication network for Black alumni. Over the years, CBAA's mission and scope of activities has expanded, resulting in myriad programs that have a direct and significant impact on alumni and future Cornell students. Through four major programs—Recruitment, Mentorship, Update, and Scholarship—CBAA enables alumni to channel their positive energies toward broadening opportunities for African-Americans, lay the foundation for talented Black students to share the Cornell experience, and inspire young people to pursue higher education. We stand ready to unite with progressive forces at Cornell to improve opportunities for students from the African diaspora.