

BSUPI

The Bowie State University Philanthropy Initiative

November 6, 2025

Advisory Board Holds October 10th Retreat to Plan the Future

Much is changing in the nation's current economic, social and political landscapes. Many worry that an already insufficient and fragile set of safety net policies and programs, for the poor and under-resourced, is coming under increasing strain.

Historically, philanthropy has played a significant role in shaping social policy and programs in the United States. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, wealthy philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller funded initiatives to combat poverty, improve education, and expand health services. These efforts often filled gaps left by government programs, advocating for social reforms and community development. Philanthropic foundations played a key role in establishing hospitals, schools, and social welfare organizations. Their influence helped shape public policies by fostering research, raising awareness, and mobilizing resources for social change, leaving a lasting impact on American society and its approach to social welfare.

Now, much of that legacy appears to be under challenge as proposals are put forward to promote tax policies less favorable to giving and funders begin to reconsider their grant portfolios. This new environment formed the backdrop for the BSUPI Retreat. The challenge for us, at BSUPI, is how to grow and sustain our efforts to create philanthropy career opportunities for our students in the face of these dynamics. This article is written to assure our BSUPI community of partners, funders and friends that we are working on it. The Advisory Board has made a strong commitment to proactive engagement around four major areas of focus:

- Raising our visibility through increased outreach and strategic engagement;



Clockwise: Retreat Consultant, **Robb King**; ABFE CEO, **Susan Taylor-Batten**; Dean, TSU School of Public Affairs, **Dr. Calvin Johnson**; Director of Grants Management, Carnegie Corp. of NY, **Roland Kennedy, Jr.**; Philanthropy Consultant, **Satonya Fair, JD**; BSU Asst. Prof., **Dr. James Hyman**; Asst. to the President, Annie E. Casey Foundation, **Stanly M. Fontaine**; Owner, Torain Advisory, LLC, **Danielle Torain, JD**; Owner, JWS Media, **Joy Thomas-Moore**; COO, MacArthur Foundation, **Kenneth Jones III**; Project Director, Moore Philanthropy, **Adriana Rocha**

- Diversifying our resources by expanding our fundraising to a broader spectrum of funders;
- Strengthening our relationships with Philanthropy-Serving organizations (PSOs); and
- Clarifying our vision for providing academic training, experiential learning, and research engagement as the pillars of our BSU Philanthropy Initiative.

With these new directions, the Board is confident that the work will grow and be sustained through 2026 and beyond.