

# Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

## CHARTER

### ***Charter Institutions***

Howard University  
Yale University

### ***Mission Statement:***

The purpose of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is to recognize outstanding scholarly achievement and promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. In the spirit of Edward Alexander Bouchet and the scholarship, character, leadership, service and advocacy he exhibited both inside and outside academic realms, inductees into the honor society bearing his name must also exhibit these same outstanding qualities.

**Scholarship:** The Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is a learned society that is committed to the goals of lifelong education, as well as the production and the dissemination of knowledge in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. Members are scholars who are committed to contributing to the development of their field(s) of study and who seek to ensure excellence and innovation in these fields.

**Character:** Bouchet Graduate Honor Society members must exhibit the highest values of their university, through their integrity, honor, and exemplary conduct and behavior. Character may be exemplified through an individual's emotional courage, principles, endurance, and the ability to follow through long after the excitement of the task is over. He or she must be reliable and consistent. At each member's core must be an awareness of the importance of contributing to society and working for the good of society.

**Leadership:** The Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is comprised of scholars who take personally their responsibility for their departments and their academic fields on a local, national, and international levels, as necessary. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society leaders are the embodiment of the ideals of their respective universities. They not only represent the mission of their university but they must also demonstrate strong initiative.

**Service:** Each member should actively contribute to the well-being of society by giving, remaining involved in the community, sharing of personal gifts and talents, and exhibiting a Bouchet-like commitment to the service of others.

**Advocacy:** Each member should actively support and advocate for broader access to graduate education and other resources within the academy. Activities might include advocating for the concerns of diverse faculty members and students, serving as a mentor, helping to address the needs of communities, and educating others on the issues that may be at the heart of the continued inequities and disparities in our society, particularly in education.

### ***History and Goals of the Society:***

The society was established with the commitment and desire by Yale University and Howard University to recognize the life and academic contributions of Edward Alexander Bouchet. Edward A. Bouchet was the first African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university. He earned his doctorate in Physics from Yale University in 1876.

Edward Alexander Bouchet was born in New Haven, Connecticut on September 15, 1852. He was the son of William Frances and Susan (Cooley) Bouchet. William Bouchet migrated to New Haven from South Charleston, South Carolina in 1824 as the valet of the father of Judge A. Heaton Robinson of New Haven. The senior Bouchet was said to have been prominent in New Haven's Black community, serving as deacon of the Temple Street Church, the oldest Black church in the city. Edward Bouchet attended the New Haven High School (1866-1868) and graduated from Hopkins Grammar School (1870) as valedictorian of his class.

Edward Bouchet entered Yale College in 1870 and was the first African American to graduate Yale College in 1874. On the basis of his academic record he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Although Bouchet was elected to Phi Beta Kappa along with other members of the Yale class of 1874, the election did not take place until 1884, when the Yale chapter was reorganized after thirteen year of inactivity. Because of the circumstances, Bouchet was not (as frequently stated in other historical sources), the first African American elected to Phi Beta Kappa. George Washington Henderson (University of Vermont) was elected in 1877 as the first.

Bouchet continued the study of graduate physics at Yale, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in Physics in 1876. Bouchet was the first African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university.

Upon graduation from Yale, Dr. Bouchet taught chemistry and physics for twenty-six years at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, PA. The Institute was a Quaker institution that had earned a reputation for high academic standards since its founding in 1837. Dr. Bouchet resigned in 1902 when the Institute's college preparatory program

was discontinued “at the height of the DuBois-Washington controversy over industrial vs. collegiate education.” The school was moved to Cheney, PA as a vocational and teacher-training school; the name was changed in later years to Cheney State College.

From 1902-1903, Bouchet served as a science teacher at Sumner High School in St. Louis, Missouri, in their college preparatory program. From 1903-1904 he served as business manager of the Provident Hospital, St. Louis and U.S. Inspector of Customs at the Louisiana Purchase Expedition (1904-1905).

Between 1905 and 1908, Bouchet was director of academics at St. Paul’s Normal and Industrial School in Lawrenceville, Virginia (later renamed, St. Paul’s College). In 1908 he was appointed principal of the Lincoln High School, Galipolis, Ohio, until 1913, when he joined the faculty of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. Dr. Bouchet retired from college teaching in 1916 due to illness, where he returned to New Haven.

### ***Founding Chapters:***

Yale University and Howard University shall serve as the founding chapters of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. One national charter with two chapters will be inaugurated in 2005 on Bouchet’s birthday, September 15. The founding chapters and their members are by necessity members of the initial National Steering Committee and all other applicable committees.

### ***Chapter Requirements:***

Eligibility for the formation of an institutional chapter is limited to doctoral-granting institutions with a sustained record of training scholars who are traditionally underrepresented in the academy. Interested institutions must show evidence of prior reform efforts designed to promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education.

### ***Eligibility Requirements:***

#### **Institutional Charters**

Eligibility requirements for the formation of a Bouchet Graduate Honor Society charter institution are limited to Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) granting colleges and universities. Induction into the society is by invitation only. All invited institutions must exhibit a track record of promoting diversity within graduate education through both matriculation and graduation statistics of underrepresented groups within the academy.

Chapters should demonstrate commitment to graduate education through Ph.D. granting programs. Universities should exhibit a track record of training underrepresented students in the academy.

### **Specific Institution Details**

#### ***Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Committees:***

- *National External Advisory Board (NEAB)* is the committee responsible for advising the National Steering Committee. Each member serves a term of four years. This

committee will meet once or twice a year, usually in the fall and/or spring, but always on September 15 (if it falls on a weekday) beginning in 2005.

National External Advisory Board Members

- President of member Universities or President’s representative from each chapter
  - Provost or Provost’s representative from each chapter
  - Invited CEOs
  - Invited Presidents of foundations
- ***National Steering Committee (NSC)*** is to be partially comprised of Howard University and Yale University member representatives. This committee will serve as the body responsible for the national oversight and administration of all Bouchet Graduate Honor Society chapters, including the review and acceptance of new chapters from eligible institutions. The National Steering Committee is the highest, governing body of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society members. All final decisions or discrepancies about the operations of individual chapters are ultimately decided upon by the National Steering Committee. The National Steering Committee reserves the right to decline, revoke, or suspend the charter of chapters determined to be functioning outside of the guidelines and mission of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The National Steering Committee, which is advised by the National External Advisory Board, can revise the charter as needed. Each member of the National Steering Committee serves a term of three years except for the doctoral student members and the postdoctoral or alumni members who all serve two-year terms. In case of a voting tie, simple majority wins.

National Steering Committee Members

- Dean of Graduate School or Dean designate from each chapter
  - Faculty member from each chapter
  - Doctoral student from each chapter
  - Postdoctoral representative or alumna/nus from each chapter
- ***Institutional Steering Committee (ISC)*** is responsible for the administration of the member institution’s chapter activities in accordance with the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society’s national charter and the institution’s governing By-laws. The Institutional Steering Committee is responsible for budgetary appropriations within the chapter. This committee is also responsible for determining the personnel of the Membership Selection Committee. A member of the National Steering Committee may also serve on the Institutional Steering Committee. In case of a voting tie, simple majority wins. All committee members must be current members of the national Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and the local chapter. Member representatives from the dean’s office and the provost’s office will serve a term of four (4) years on the ISC. All faculty members, doctoral students, postdoctoral representatives and alumni serve a term of two (2) years.

### Institutional Steering Committee Members

- Dean of Graduate School or Dean designate
  - Representative from the Provost's Office
  - Faculty member from one of the three (3) disciplines at Yale, four (4) disciplines at Howard, and the corresponding number of disciplines at other member institutions
  - Doctoral student from each discipline division
  - Postdoctoral representative or alumna/nus
- **Membership Selection Committee (MSC)** is responsible for identifying prospective members and chapters and for ensuring their subsequent compliance of eligibility requirements. The Membership Selection Committee will review nomination documents (see Nomination and Selection Process), vote on each nomination, and present possible inductees to the National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC is then responsible for inviting members for induction into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The Membership Selection Committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that current members from their respective institutions maintain eligibility. Moreover, the Membership Selection Committee may reserve the right to revoke an individual's Bouchet Graduate Honor Society membership in instances of non-compliance with the mission and goals of the Society. Members of this committee or faculty members from across the university (regardless of their membership status) may nominate an individual for membership. Only a university or college faculty member (regardless of their membership status) or an administrator may nominate a doctoral student for membership. All committee members must be current members of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and the local chapter.

### Membership Selection Committee Members

- Faculty member from the Humanities
- Faculty member from the Social Sciences
- Faculty member from the Natural/Life Sciences
- Faculty member from the Physical Sciences
- Graduate School Dean or Designate
- Doctoral student representative from the Humanities
- Doctoral student representative from the Social Sciences
- Doctoral student representative from the Natural Sciences
- Doctoral student from the Physical Sciences
- Postdoctoral representative or alumna/nus

### **Membership Eligibility Requirements:**

- **Doctoral Student Member** is enrolled in excellent academic standing as defined by the institution, has completed all course work and successfully advanced to candidacy at the host institution. The nominee must be considered 'All But Dissertation' (ABD) (i.e. completed qualifying exam, orals, qualifying papers or equivalent) by the institution and be within a reasonable time frame of completing

their Ph.D. degree as expected within their discipline. By right, charter members are exempt from these criteria. Each inductee must meet the eligibility criteria determined by his or her institution and embody the legacy of Edward A. Bouchet. A fellow's membership can be revoked if the fellow does not graduate within the time allotted by each university's time-to-degree policy based on individual circumstances. The Institutional Steering Committee reserves the right to decide whether or not fellows maintain high, academic standing.

- ***Post-Doctoral Member*** is a person who has been awarded a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. from a research institution and is currently holding a post-doctoral fellowship, associate, or assistant professor position within the host chapter institution.
- ***Alumni Member*** is an individual who holds a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. from the host chapter institution and was a Society Member (see above Eligibility Requirements: Doctoral Student Member) in high academic standing and has graduated or has been nominated after graduation from the institution to be an Alumni Member of the Society (see below Nomination Process: Alumni Member).
- ***Faculty Member*** is an individual who has been awarded a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. and is currently holding a faculty or lecturer position within the host charter institution.
- ***Lifetime or Honorary Member***. Individuals who are deemed by the Society as having contributed significantly to promoting the Society's mission.

The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society reserves the right to revoke the privileges of membership if a member is in non-compliance with the goals and mission of the Society. In this circumstance, the Membership Selection Committee may review the member's status and recommend said action to the Institutional then National Steering Committees.

### ***Nomination and Acceptance Process:***

- ***Society Member***. Upon nomination by the student's faculty thesis advisor or a faculty member from the students Dissertation Committee the nominee will also provide the other supporting material listed below to the Membership Selection Committee for review and approval (see above). The nomination package should also include a personal statement indicating how the nominee embodies the character and legacy of Edward Bouchet in doctoral education. Nominations should also include a current transcript from all Graduate and Professional Schools attended and two (2) letters of recommendation from the following: (1) a member of faculty from the host institution describing the nominee's current and potential contributions to their field of study and (2) a faculty member, dean or director of program describing how the nominee embodies the Bouchet legacy. The nomination packet will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Membership Selection Committee. Final approval of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees

at all chapter institutions will be granted by the National Steering Committee prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year.

- ***Post Doctoral Member.*** Upon nomination by the postdoctoral fellows primary faculty advisor, the nominee will also provide the other supporting material listed below to the Membership Selection Committee for review and approval (see above). The nomination package should also include a personal statement indicating how the nominee embodies the character and legacy of Edward Bouchet in doctoral education. Nominations should also include a current transcript from all Graduate and Professional Schools attended and two (2) letters of recommendation from the following: (1) a member of faculty from the host institution describing the nominee's current and potential contributions to their field of study and (2) a faculty member, dean or director of program describing how the nominee embodies the Bouchet legacy. The nomination packet will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Membership Selection Committee. Final approval of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees at all chapter institutions will be granted by the National Steering Committee prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year.

The Membership Selection Committee may also nominate each year current alumni, faculty or distinguished members of the academy whom they wish to honor with membership into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The procedures for nomination of these members are as follows:

- ***Alumni Member.*** Submission of a letter of intent to the Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward Bouchet in doctoral education. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from a chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.
- ***Faculty Member.*** Submission of a letter of intent to the Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward Bouchet in doctoral education and the professoriate. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from a chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.
- ***Lifetime or Honorary Member.*** Submission of a letter of intent to the Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward Bouchet in doctoral education. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from a chapter institution. The application

will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.

### ***Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Activities:***

- ***Bouchet Conference on Diversity.*** As part of the annual Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education, special symposia and sessions would be put together for society members during the conference.
- ***Workshops.*** Special workshops on academic and research skills, career development, networking, fellowship and grants writing, etc.
- ***Mentoring Programs.*** Society members would serve as mentors for others, as well as be mentors by other members of the society (post doctoral members or faculty members).
- ***Bi-annual Peer-Reviewed Journal*** designed to chronicle and facilitate an important hallmark of Edward Bouchet's legacy. The Society's Journal will contribute to a body of knowledge by publishing the research findings of its members upon review of the Editorial Board.
- ***Networking website.*** Contact information and brief biographical description of the members and their research area.

### ***Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Benefits of Membership:***

- Fellowships
- Access to annual conferences
- Academic and career development assistance from fellow members
- Opportunity to publish in the Bouchet journal