



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2026

AUC NAN Youth & College Chapter Stands With the Wells Family, Joins the Call for a Full and Transparent Investigation

The National Action Network Youth & College Chapter of the Atlanta University Center — representing students across Morehouse, Spelman, Clark Atlanta, Morris Brown, and the ITC — stands with the family of 18-year-old Nolan Xavier Wells and joins National Action Network's national call for a full, transparent, and urgent investigation into his death.

Wells, a community college football player from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was last seen on Horn Island on July 4 and was found dead on the island days later. Authorities have said they believe he drowned and have not identified evidence of foul play, but the investigation remains active, and the family — represented by civil rights attorney Ben Crump — has commissioned an independent autopsy amid concerns about how the case is being handled.

Consistent with NAN's national position, our chapter is not here to get ahead of the facts. We are not presuming what happened on Horn Island, and we are not accepting premature conclusions either. Nolan's family deserves the truth, and that truth can only come from a complete, honest investigation with every record released without delay.

This case sits close to home for us as young activist. Nolan was a young Black man with his whole life ahead of him — the same age and the same stage of life as many of us across the AUC. We are reminded, as we are so often, that our safety and our futures cannot be taken for granted, and that families like the Wellses should never have to fight alone for answers.

As a chapter, we are committing to:

- Creating space for AUC students to process this together, without speculation driving the conversation.
- Continuing our mobilization for the March on Washington on August 28, where the call for a fair and transparent justice system will carry Nolan's name forward.
- Monitoring the investigation's developments and sharing only verified updates through @aucnan.
- Connecting any student who needs it to grief and mental health resources.

We ask our fellow students, faculty, and the broader HBCU community to hold the Wells family in prayer, resist unverified claims circulating online, and stay engaged as this investigation moves forward.

About the AUC NAN Youth & College Chapter

The AUC Youth & College Chapter of the National Action Network unites students across the Atlanta University Center in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., organizing around one standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunity for all people.