



**TUCSON UNIFIED**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**CONTACT:**

Jimmy Hart

Director African American Student Services

1302 S. Avenida Vega, 85710

(520) 584-7500

[jimmy.hart@tusd1.org](mailto:jimmy.hart@tusd1.org)



## **Tucson Students Visit Historical Black Colleges During Spring Break**

Tucson, AZ – Students attending high school in Tucson Unified School District optimized their spring break by visiting historical black colleges and universities (HBCUs). While most students are glad to have a week away from school and academic learning environments, 9 TUSD students from Cholla, Palo Verde, Sabino, Santa Rita and Tucson High Schools participated in the African American Student Services led Historical Black College and Cultural Tour. Students flew into New Orleans, LA on March 19, 2016 in preparation for their visits to Xavier University, Dillard University and Southern University. At Xavier, students participated in a guided tour that ended with a conversation and photo with the Xavier University President. Xavier University is highly regarded and known for graduating more African American medical doctors than any other 4 year university in the United States.

During the Historical Black College and Cultural Tour students learned about STEM opportunities at Jackson State University (Mississippi), Fisk University (Tennessee), Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College (Tennessee). Students also visited Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University and several colleges in Atlanta, GA including Spellman College and Morehouse University. When talking with students about the tour several expressed their deep appreciation for being able to learn about colleges and universities that show it is an expectation that African American students enroll in higher education.

Although students spent a lot of time on college campuses, the spring break experience would not have been complete without seeing some of the rich African American culture given to our great nation. Students toured the Nashville Civil Rights Museum, saw movie producer Tyler Perry up-close and personal and walked the grounds of the Martin L. King, Jr. Memorial, Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Underground Mall. According to African American Student Services Specialist, Debra Jackson, “Priceless... The Historical Black College and Cultural Tour was not just a tour. It was a journey of rich history that showed our forefathers worked hard so we might have the many opportunities that exist today. We traveled to experience and through the experience we gained an appreciation.” Grace Boubeka, Santa Rita HS student, expressed her enthusiasm by sharing “Wow! What an incredible experience. I will never forget all that I saw, heard, and learned. It was truly amazing.”

TUSD African American Student Services appreciates the many people, churches and organizations that donated to help make the tour possible. Special thanks to Delta Sigma Theta, Tucson Education Enrichment Foundation and the Tucson High Site Council.

Info: For additional information and questions contact the AASSD office at 584-7500.

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