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**SPECIAL EDITION HBCU TOUR**

SECOND QUARTER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER THAT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

# ACH COMMUNICATES

## ACH CLEAR PATHWAYS... THE DREAM MAKER!

When most people think of ACH Clear Pathways, they automatically think of the Out of School Program or the Creative Camp Program; however, the spring of 2023 brought a new dimension for its ACH alumni! Our alumni consist of students that have "aged out" of the official programs; however, at age 14 they become eligible to be camp counselors at ACH through the Learn & Earn work program. On April 2, 2023, ACH hosted its inaugural HBCU Tour and our alumni began to discover and dream about new possibilities! For those of you who may not be familiar with the term **HBCU**, let's begin here! The Secretary of Education defines an HBCU as "any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association."

### The Spark!

Our program director, Ms. Da'Nai Battle, is the mother of two children. Her son, Jonathan, is a young man who is a sophomore at Central Catholic High School. As Ms. Da'Nai talked with her son and his friends, she discovered that they showed no interest in going to college, nor did they have real thoughts about their future! Those talks with her son and his friends, who worked together and grew up at ACH, created a sense of urgency in her that she had to do something to encourage them and to create a spark as they thought about their future. She thought she would take her son and two of his friends to visit some HBCU's herself! As she was thinking about these young men, it occurred to her that they weren't alone. Some of the alumni had experienced traumatic events in their young lives which detracted from hope for a better future. They had experienced death of family members and the violent death of friends. Most of their parents had never attended college, so there wasn't a lot of encouragement there. Some of the alumni had never flown on an airplane, visited a beach or ever left the city of Pittsburgh! What was the point? Da'Nai reached out to the Executive Director and the Board about her idea. They were overwhelmed with this wonderful project and said yes without hesitation! And so, here we go on our first HBCU Tour!

### HBCU ON THE ROAD TRIP!



The bus was on time! The group departed ACH at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2nd. They arrived in Falls Church, VA at 5:00 p.m. They will enjoy this evening and be ready for their first school visit on Monday. Lodging is at an Airbnb so that everyone is in the same space always. The chaperones are happy about this arrangement.

The first University that they will visit is Morgan State University. It was originally founded in 1867 as Centenary Biblical Institute for men to study for the Ministry. It became Morgan College in 1890 and admitted both men and women. In 1939 its name changed to Morgan State College. With the addition of various curriculum and partnerships with other schools of higher education, it became Morgan State University in 1975.

**Here we come!**

**We look forward to seeing you for our summer series of "ALL THAT JAZZ"**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION**





This really is an adventure. The group spent the first two nights in a 8 bedroom home. There were amenities which included indoor table tennis, basketball and room for everyone to spread out. This home was easily accessible to both Morgan State and Howard University. Each night, the chaperones gathered the youth for a recap of their day. This included things they were looking forward to see or questions they wanted to ask. As the trip progressed, the nightly recap created moments of observation about the things they had experienced for the first time and how they felt about those new experiences.

The youth are ready to visit Morgan State University which is the school closest to Pittsburgh. It is located in Baltimore, Md.



## MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

A NEW HOME EXPERIENCE—KIDS HAVING FUN!

The students were met by a tour guide in the Office of Admissions. As they viewed the campus, they had so many questions. The campus occupies 152 acres of land. In 2016, the University was designated a National Treasure so that it's rich history will be preserved in many of its buildings. Morgan continue to develop newer buildings, such as the University Student Center. The Center houses the Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights. There is so much to see and learn about the University. One of the notable alumni is the City of Pittsburgh Mayor, Edward Gainey.



A view inside the University Student Center provides an opportunity for the students to experience a little student life on campus. The Center houses the many Greek Organizations on campus and the Student Book Store and Shops. Some of the students will make their first purchase here. They want to get a Morgan sweatshirt or hat or some other memorabilia from their trip.



## RECAPS AND MORE!

Each evening after the group returned from their schools, and had dinner, the group gathered together to discuss the following:

What went well? What questions did you want to ask and forgot to ask? What features did you like about each school? What didn't you like? Can you see yourself in that school, city and state? Do you feel that this trip helped you in any way?

The students weren't the only ones who had new experiences. One of the chaperones is Lauryn Henson, who is the administrative Assistant for ACH. Lauryn had attended a Philadelphia University for one year and then attended CCAC on the Northside of Pittsburgh. She always wanted to be a fashion designer and just didn't feel like College was for her. Fast forward ahead, she volunteered to go on the HBCU Tour as a chaperone. Her response to it all was simply WOW! She had never visited an HBCU before because when she was in High School, it wasn't available to her. She was always under the impression that the schools were small. Was she surprised to discover the size and beauty of all of these schools, but Spelman made her rethink her attitude about going back to school. She said that she could see herself on Spelman Campus. She experienced seeing a member of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated walk across the campus and take a picture in the front of the gate. She had always hoped that she, too, could one day be a member of that Sisterhood, but it didn't look like it was possible. Lauryn has now found new possibilities because of this trip. Although Spelman does not offer the course of study that she is interested in, she has already begun investigating other HBCU's so that she can enroll for next year. The desire for Lauryn to return to school was reborn at Spelman. Dreams were awakened on this tour. We, at ACH, support our staff members in growing to their fullest potential. Go for it Lauryn!

### RECAP OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ms. Da'Nai Battle says that the tour "**exceeded her expectations**"! She was happy that the students experienced opportunities that they otherwise would not have had. The students developed bonding relationships that may last a lifetime. Most importantly, she felt that the tour gave the students experiences where they could dream! They could see themselves walking across one of the campuses. They could see themselves buying a home like the Air BnB's we stayed in. They want to plan trips to the beach. Dreams to further their education were birthed as they traveled. She continues to ask the important question: "**How can you dream about what you have never heard about, thought about, or seen?**" Just to listen to them discuss what college might look like to each of them was worth all the stress of planning the first **ACH HBCU Tour!**

On one evening during recap, a graduate from Bethune-Cookman joined them and shared some experiences with the group. He reminded the students that as they walked through Morehouse and Spelman, they were walking hallowed grounds because of those who had come before them. He encouraged them to "**attend a school where they are celebrated—not tolerated**"!

As we discussed how much pre-planning she did to make the arrangements to visit these schools, She was asked "Would you do it again? Will there be an HBCU Tour in 2024? She did not hesitate as she quickly responded **YES!** It was definitely worth it. Dreams were born, so, now we can encourage others to dream also.

### FINANCIAL RECAP

I hope you have enjoyed traveling with the ACH HBCU Tour! It is our hope that you will see the benefits of this trip. If so, please consider partnering with us for the 2024 trip. The average cost per person was approximately \$2,500.00. The students and their families participated in various fund raisers to get them on the trip. Perhaps you're thinking you might help, but you can't do the whole thing. That's great! Every dollar that you give for the Tour will be one less dollar the students will have to worry about. If you are able to sponsor a student, you will make a tremendous difference. By the way, the students flew home from Atlanta. Perhaps you might consider sponsoring the airfare home for one person. Whatever you give, it will be used to help dreams flourish among our children.

You cannot put a price tag on some experiences in life. This tour may have birthed future Senators, Judges, Engineers, Scientists, Artists or Poets! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

If you are interested in being apart of this Dream building experience, please call **412-815-0271** or email **admin@achep.org** and just say "**I want to help with the 2024 HBCU Tour**"!



Final wrap up session before leaving Georgia





# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

We've got our gear from Morgan State; let's see why people keep talking about Howard University. We are greeted by a tour guide and we learned so much about this HBCU.



Arriving at Howard



Although the Rockefellers and its subsequent Brothers Foundation have been generous donors for many years, the picture above shows the "Wall of Honor" which showcases the generous donors from politicians, tv and movies, sports and other people of note who have supported the legacy of Spelman Women.



Constructed in 1982, the Robert W. Woodruff Library is named in honor of the late Robert Winship Woodruff, philanthropist and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. The library supports the teaching, learning and research missions of four institutions of higher education that comprise the world's largest consortium of HBCUs: Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College. As the "center of the Center," the AUC Woodruff Library is the intellectual and information hub of the Atlanta University Center.

Spelman has a roster of notable alumnae, such as Prize winning author, Alice Walker; Children's Defense Fund founder, Marian Wright Edelman; politician and activist, Stacey Abrams and Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam. Keynote speakers have included First Lady Michelle Obama in 2011 and Ms. Oprah Winfrey in 2012. Spelman continues to move into the forefront of civil rights and women's rights. In 2017, Spelman's leadership voted to allow transgender women to enroll in the institution.

It continues to be a front-runner in the expression of art. The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is the only museum in the nation dedicated to art by and about women of the African diaspora. The museum is located on the campus of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia on the first floor of the Camille Olivia Hanks



Cosby, Ed.D., Academic Center. Initial plans for the Museum were spearheaded by arts faculty who believed that visual art is an essential component of a liberal arts education and that it plays a significant role in encouraging intellectual growth and it has served as a vital resource for the Spelman community and the Atlanta University Center since it opened in 1996. The Spelman Museum is an internationally respected nexus for excellent exhibitions and programs, and has a renewed commitment to growing and exhibiting the permanent collection of art.



Part of Howard's campus is located in the heart of our Nation's Capital. From here we can see the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The students had an opportunity to see what they had read about and saw in movies. This school has so many opportunities, but it's much larger than they thought!

Howard ranks among the highest producers of the nation's Black professionals in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, nursing, architecture, religion, law, music, social work and education. Howard has grown from a single-frame building in 1867 and evolved to more than 89 acres, including the six-story, 400-bed Howard University Hospital. Since 1974, it has expanded to include a 22-acre School of Law West Campus, a 22-acre School of Divinity East Campus and another three-fifths of an acre facility in northeast Washington and a 108-acre tract of land in Beltsville, Maryland. An interesting note about Howard is the names of its Alumni that some of the students could recognize. Here are just some of those who have created lasting memories for many. This list is only a minute example of the prestigious doctors, lawyers, scientists, and public servants that Howard educated and provided opportunities to allow their dreams to become realities.

- Thurgood Marshall—First African-American Supreme Court Justice**
- Kamala Harris—First African-American Vice President of the U.S.**
- Elijah Cumming—Civil Rights Activist and U. S. House Representative**
- Chadwick Boseman—The memorable Black Panther**
- Sean Combs—otherwise known as P. Diddy ; Taraji P. Henson; Marlon Wayons; Toni Morrison; Anthony Anderson; Nick Canon; Phylicia Rashad; Letitia James; Gregory Meeks and Lynn Whitfield**



Cathy Hughes School of Communication where so many of our notables began their career.

It's been a long day and the students are amazed at all they have seen. They've checked out Freshman dorms, student union facilities and some of the lecture halls. They're headed to dinner at Tyson's Corner and then back to their temporary home to recap this new and interesting experience.



# HAMPTON UNIVERSITY IN VIRGINIA

After breakfast and another bus trip, it was time to discover what was so special about Hampton. The students arrived at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia on April 4, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. Many of them shared their first impression about the beauty of the campus, located near Buckroe Beach.

Hampton University is a private, historically black, research university in Hampton, Virginia. Founded in 1868 as Hampton Agricultural and Industrial School, it was established by Black and White leaders of the American Missionary Association after the American Civil War to provide education to freedmen. The campus houses the Hampton University Museum, which is the oldest museum of the African diaspora in the United States and the oldest museum in the commonwealth of Virginia. First led by former Union General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, Hampton University's main campus is located on 314 acres in Hampton, Virginia, on the banks of the Hampton River.

Among its notable alumni is Booker T. Washington who would become Hampton's most distinguished graduate. At only 25 years old, at the request of General Armstrong, Washington helped found Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881. A more recent well known graduate is Wanda Sykes, actress and comedian.



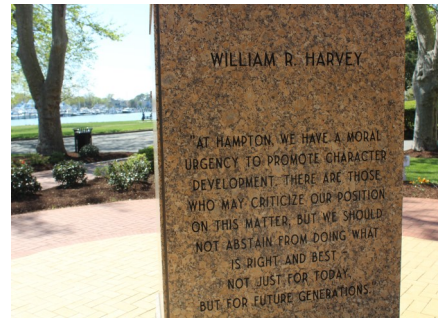
Legacy Park—a place of history



W. E. DuBois Hall



The Hampton Museum



HU President, William Harvey Plaque—addresses the ethics of Hampton



Scripps Howard School of Journalism



Legacy park features statues of several historic figures, all of whom had an impact on humanity and Hampton University. The figures include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President Barack Obama, General Samuel Armstrong, Rosa Parks and HU President William Harvey, just to name a few.

Hampton has a rich history of diversity and working to provide equal education and rights in a multicultural society.

It is well known by Baptist Ministers nationwide because it is the location where Ministers have gathered at the Hampton Ministers conference for over 100 years.

Hampton University is a jewel hidden in the Virginia area.

The students have enough time to have some fun at this wonderful beach area.



One of the most well known graduates of Morehouse is the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The MLK, Jr. International Chapel is dedicated to empowering transformational, nonviolent ambassadors of peace working to reveal and create the “Beloved” world spiritual, economic, and cultural community as a reflection of the social justice of Jesus Christ.

Morehouse College is home to many well known alumni, among them: Spike Lee; Julian Bond, Samuel L. Jackson, Senator Raphael Warnock, Gold medalist Edwin Moses and Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

President Barack Obama was the commencement speaker to the class of 2013.

It's time to catch up with the young ladies to see what they think of Spelman College.

## SPELMAN COLLEGE

Spelman has a unique history in both its original charter and the Philanthropists that perpetuated its growth. It was founded in 1881 as the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary by two women from Boston, MA. The first class began with 11 African American women and \$100.00. It was located in the basement of a church. In 1884, John D. Rockefeller visited the school at the request of its founders and was so impressed with the school that he paid for the property that they had recently purchased. At the time of his visit, there were 600 students and 16 faculty members. Rockefeller and his wife, Laura Spelman, her sister, Lucy Spelman; and their parents, Harvey Buel and Lucy Henry Spelman were also supportive of the school. The Spelmans were longtime activists in the abolitionist movement. In 1884, the name of the school was changed to the Spelman Seminary in honor of Laura Spelman and her family. Rockefeller also donated the funds for what is currently the oldest building on campus, Rockefeller Hall, which was constructed in 1886.

In 1924, Spelman Baptist Seminary officially became Spelman College, making it the second oldest private HBCU for liberal arts colleges for women.



A gated community!  
Beautiful and safe.



Rockefeller residence hall combines classrooms, living quarters, and administrative offices. In 2005, it was closed for much needed renovations including new flooring windows, and ADA compliant access. The new building has extra administrative offices on two levels.



# MOREHOUSE

The bus arrived in Atlanta, Georgia at 1:00 p.m. on April 6th. We had appointments for the young men to visit Morehouse College and the young ladies would visit Spelman College at the same time. It was going to be a unique opportunity for the young people to actually see what all the hype was really about. First, we needed lunch, so we visited a popular Atlanta Spot called "Old Lady Gang" in the Arts historic district of Atlanta



Students have lunch at the "Old Lady Gang" restaurant.



(Above) Ray Charles Performing Arts Center & Music Academic Center—Build in 2010



This is how a Morehouse Man dresses!

Morehouse College is a private historically black liberal arts college for men. A little known fact is that Morehouse admitted women between 1929-1933. There were eventually 33 women graduates. The school was established in the basement of a Baptist Church in 1868. Since its beginning, Morehouse has continued its Mission, which is "To develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership and service. Morehouse is a part of the Atlanta University Center, which is a consortium of Black colleges and universities. Other members of the consortium include Clark Atlanta University and Spelman University.



The male students are ready to find out all about Morehouse. It's time to understand what this school has to offer them.



The Walter Eugene Massey Leadership Center was built in 2005 to prepare men for leadership roles in the community



# FUN IN THE HAMPTON AREA AND BUCKROE BEACH

Although most people think that education must always be a system of receiving information provided in a structured class room of school; education can also be an enlightening experiences which creates change or provides previously unknown knowledge. The HBCU Tour certainly provided an education for the students. In addition to visiting the schools, they had opportunities to visit beaches, shop at nationally known shopping complexes and live in residences that they had never dreamed of entering before. Many of the students had only seen these places on television or the movies.



Although the waves will wash away the name ACH on Buckroe Beach, the memories of being at this beach will forever be enshrined in the heart of some of the students. This is a first time experience for some of them.



The students looked at the beautiful blue waters in the Bay area while at Hampton, but we really wanted to get in the water. We saw the boats and yachts up and down the water.

Time for us to get wet, so off to Buckroe beach we went. It is a 3/4-mile beach that offers a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean as you look across the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. It is a clean sandy beach, with a gentle surf.



It's been an eventful day. The students had lunch on campus, but it's dinner time. Off to Cheddar Scratch Kitchen. They have a lot to recap this evening and then get ready to depart for North Carolina at 6:00 a.m. on April 5th.

North Carolina A & T University  
We're on the way!





# NORTH CAROLINA A & T UNIVERSITY

The students have about a 4 hour bus ride to reach their next destination at Greensboro, North Carolina. The students were up late and out early this morning. During the bus ride some slept, others read, or some talked with each other about the upcoming visit. Some of the students didn't have much information about N.C. A & T State University. Of course, the trip coordinator and ACH Program Manager was ready as always.



**WE'RE HERE!**



As the students passed through the entrance of North Carolina A & T, one of the first sights that they saw was the statue of the North Carolina four. That statue represents a historical period in the lives of African-Americans as they struggled for equality and freedom. The name of the four are worth remembering: EZELL BLAIR, JR., FRANKLIN MCCAIN, JOSEPH MCNEIL & DAVID RICHMOND. On the afternoon of Feb. 1, 1960, four N.C. A&T students walked from campus to the downtown

Greensboro Woolworth, sat down at its whites-only lunch counter and asked to be served. That simple action touched off a wave of similar sit-ins throughout the south, grabbing the attention of the nation. The actions of Blair ('63), McCain ('64), McNeil ('63) and Richmond not only led to the desegregation of the Woolworth's lunch counter five months later, but to integration in other public accommodations across the United States. In many ways, their activism served as an emotional catalyst for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned racial discrimination in public accommodations, as well as in education, employment and voting.

On March 9, 1891, the "Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race" was established by an act of the North Carolina General Assembly. The act read in part: "That the leading objective of the college shall be to teach practical agriculture and the mechanic arts and such learning as related thereto, not excluding academic and classical instruction." The college, which started with four teachers and 37 students, initially offered instruction in Agriculture, English, Horticulture, and Mathematics. The college continued to operate in Raleigh until the Board of Trustees voted, in 1892, to relocate the college to Greensboro.

Since North Carolina A&T's first graduating class in 1899, it has sent more than 60,000 alumni into the world, where many have gone on to great success, making significant contributions in government, STEM professions, sports, academia, business and more.

Two of the most well-known graduates of N.C. A & T are the Rev. Jesse Jackson who graduated in 1964 and later became a civil rights activist, along side Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. A perhaps less known graduate, will nevertheless remain in this Nation's history books. His name is Dr. Ronald E. McNair who was the second African-American astronaut in space. McNair earned a B. S. in Engineering Physics, magna cum laude, in 1971. He went on to earn a Ph.D. at MIT while undertaking prominent research in laser physics. In 1978, McNair was selected as one of thirty-five applicants from a pool of ten thousand for the NASA astronaut program. He was one of several astronauts recruited as part of a NASA effort to increase the number of minority and female astronauts. He flew as a mission specialist on STS-41-B aboard *Challenger* from February 3 to 11, 1984, becoming the second African American to fly in space. In his second space shuttle mission, he perished in the Challenger tragedy at the age of 35. In death, he has become a major figure across the country,

with dozens of schools, labs, centers and programs named in his honor, most notable the U.S. Department of Education's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which has prepared thousands of minority candidates for Ph.D. programs.



A souvenir T-shirt to remember the school of civil engineers. So many great opportunities for students interested in STEM programs.

Dream big students!



The boys took this opportunity to enjoy themselves in the N.C. A & T pool. Yes, all of this was part of their education. They saw opportunities to dream beyond the previously expected paths.

The students had lunch on campus and now they are off to dinner and then call it a night.

They will leave North Carolina at 8:00 a.m. on April 6th heading to their last state, which is Georgia where they will visit two more HBCU schools.

Ms. Lauryn, an administrative assistant at ACH volunteered to chaperone on the trip.

Always smiling.

always encouraging

Just what the youth need.

Off to Georgia!

