

APPENDIX V – 229

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“I Am You 360 Soul Leaders” and Male Leadership Students Visit the University of Arizona



Tucson, AZ – On April 25, 2016, thirty-four Palo Verde High School students visited the University of Arizona. The university visit was a collaborative with Dr. Tanisha Price-Johnson, Executive Director and Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine, Desiree Cook, Founder and President of I Am You 360, U of A African American Student Affairs, Palo Verde HS administration and African American Student Services.

The Tour

Students spent approximately 5 hours touring campus facilities including the bookstore, student union, recreation center, dorm-life and the Martin L. King, Jr. Center. While on the tour students coincidentally got a chance to meet one of the assistant football coaches and one of the volleyball coaches (both African American). Both coaches were able to provide insight about succeeding in college. Afterward, several students expressed their appreciation. Shawn, who will graduate from Palo Verde HS in a few weeks, talked about the benefits of the tour and hearing from current college students. When asked what his is looking forward to in college, Shawn explained, “I am definitely looking forward to not having to go to the same class everyday, but know I will have to be responsible and complete my coursework. It was also nice to know we have an MLK, Jr. Center on the U of A campus.”

During their visit to the MLK, Jr. Center, student met with African American Studies professor, Dr. Bryan Carter. Dr. Carter is known for his work in recreating a virtual world of the Harlem Renaissance. Also, while in the MLK, Jr. Center, students met with staff and students working in the African American Student Affairs Office.

A Road to College

Student also got a chance to follow-up with 1st year college students. This was a great opportunity for students to ask questions to some of the students they had met during the fall semester. In September, 2015, fifteen University of Arizona freshmen, enrolled in Building Leaders and Creating Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) retention program, merged onto the Palo Verde HS campus to share their life experiences, how they overcame obstacles to get to college and owning your future. The collaboration was coined “A Road to College.” The “I Am You 360 Soul Leaders” college visit was a great way to follow-up and reconnect high school students with college students.

TUSD African American Student Services appreciates the many people, churches and organizations that continually work to enhance and enrich the educational experience of students. Special thanks to Dr. Tanisha Price-Johnson, Dr. Bryan Carter, AASA staff – Isoken Adodo and Sarahna Moyd, the Palo Verde HS administration team and our wonderful empowerment group leader, Desiree Cook.

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

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