

APPENDIX V – 214

**African American Student Services**  
**Student Services Department**  
**TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



Dear Parent & Guardian:

Congratulations! Your child was chosen to participate in "A Road to College" partnership hosted by the TUSD African American Student Services Department and The University of Arizona African American Student Affairs Office. On \_\_\_\_\_, during 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, our students will participate in an engaging mini-conference facilitated by the University of Arizona African American Student Affairs (AASA) office and students involved in the Building Leaders and Creating Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) retention program.

The Building Leaders and Creating Knowledge retention program (B.L.A.C.K.) is the product of a strategic, collaborative initiative between the University of Arizona Dean of Students, Residence Life, and Academic Success and Achievement to increase student retention at the University of Arizona. The goals of this program are to:

- \*Increase access to campus and community resources to African American students
- \*Increase students' knowledge of ancestral history
- \*Help students successfully navigate the university as an institution of higher learning
- \*Provide personal, academic, and professional development and support, and
- \*Provide a safe and welcoming place for students to engage in discourse about the Black community, obtain mentorship, and take pride in oneself.

Throughout the school year, B.L.A.C.K. will be engaging in activities on and off campus that will expose students to a range of experiences and provide diverse opportunities for students to get involved in their communities in meaningful ways. They have chosen TUSD and the African American Student Services Department to partner with helping our students strive for academic excellence.

B.L.A.C.K. students will discuss their journey to college, college life, study skills and what is working for them, provide mentorship to students and to begin developing positive connections and relationships with high school students through follow-up events.

The purpose of this initiative is to start the dialogue about the college going process, promote positive self-esteem, and enrich our school and community through education, outreach, and self-discipline. ***If you do not want your child to participate you can opt out by calling and leaving a message at 584-7500 or email [richard.langford@tusd1.org](mailto:richard.langford@tusd1.org).***

Sincerely,

Richard Langford  
*African American Student Services Department*  
*Student Success Specialist*

**"Advocacy, Empowerment, Equity & Intervention"**

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