

African American Student Services

Fall News

A Note From The Director



Dear TUSD Families and Community Members,

As we begin the second quarter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful strides we've made together in the African American Student Services Department. It has been a busy and fulfilling time, and I'm grateful to have such a supportive community by our side.

Last quarter, we joyfully opened the African American Hub, a warm and welcoming space designed to serve our students and families. We are also excited to launch our first Black Girls Code Club at Blenman Elementary School, empowering our young women to explore the world of technology.

Our HBCU Night, earlier this month, for high school students was a wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn about historically Black colleges and universities, prepare college application essays, and explore Black Sororities and Fraternities. Additionally, our inaugural Roots of Resilience parent workshop brought together families to discuss nurturing resilience in our children. We've also been expanding our African American library at the Hub, ensuring our students and families have access to stories and resources that reflect their rich heritage.

I'm delighted to share that we have welcomed two new mentors to our dedicated team, who are here to advocate, support, and uplift our students.

Please remember that we are all in this together. We are here to support and inform you every step of the way. Thank you for being a part of our journey to create an empowering environment for our students. Together, we can achieve great things!

With gratitude,

Dr. Tonya R. Strozier, Director
African American Student Services Department

In the Numbers

AASSD 1st Quarter Impact!



AASSD made over **3,000** School/Student
Contacts in the 1st Qtr.

AASSD Attended Nearly **100**
MTSS Meetings to Support African American
Students.

AASSD Providing Royal Readers Reading
Interventions at **9** TUSD Schools

More than **90%** of Students Supported By Our
Intervention Teachers Showed Growth

Behavior Specialist Advocacy Resulted in **30%**
Decrease in Discipline

AASSD RTIs are providing math and reading
interventions to more than **200** Elementary
Students in 23 TUSD schools

Black Girls Code

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our **Black Girls Code Club** at Blenman Elementary, marking the beginning of an exciting initiative to empower young women in technology. Utilizing curriculum from [Black Girls That Code](#), our goal is to train **100 girls in coding** by the end of the summer, with additional clubs set to launch throughout the year. In conjunction with the clubs, we will also offer coding camps at the African American Hub. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors for providing new MacBooks for the Hub, which will enhance our programs.



It's essential to address the underrepresentation of women, particularly women of color, in STEM fields—currently, only 3% of women in technology are Black. Engaging girls in coding not only fosters vital skills but has been shown to **boost math performance**, helping to pave the way for future opportunities in these crucial areas.

Check out the NEW African American Hub!



Please stop by and visit the Hub. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm.

Empowering Our Community!



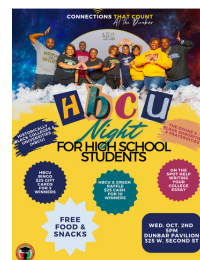
No Slur Workshops

We are excited to highlight Shermaine Fort, our dedicated Program Coordinator, who is leading the No Slur workshops across the district. These essential training sessions



Roots of Resilience: Parenting for Black Joy!

The **Roots of Resilience** parenting talk was an absolute success! Our guest speaker, Dr. Renae Mayes, captivated the audience with her insightful



HBCU Night for High School Students!

HBCU Night was a phenomenal success! With nearly 270 people in attendance, we were thrilled to see such strong community

engage teachers, staff, and students in discussions about harmful language and its impact. By addressing these issues head-on, Shermaine is helping to foster a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone. Her commitment to promoting understanding and respect is crucial in creating a supportive school culture where all students can thrive. We appreciate her leadership and passion in this important initiative!

discussion on how parents can support their children in overcoming racism. We centered our conversations around parenting for **Black Joy**.

The event, hosted at the African American Hub, brought together families and community members to engage in meaningful dialogue, share resources, and build connections. A special thank you to all the parents who came out and to Dr. Renae Mayes, from the University of Arizona, for her expertise and dedication to empowering our community. We look forward to continuing our Roots of Resilience series for parents and students.

engagement. Hosted in partnership with *A Better Community (ABC)*, led by Trehon and Carmishun Coleman, and supported by several community organizations, this event offered high school students an enriching experience.

Students participated in a college entrance essay workshop, engaged in HBCU-themed games and activities, and interacted with members of the Divine 9 Black sororities and fraternities. The event also featured HBCU Bingo and raffles with gift cards and cash prizes. The energy and enthusiasm in the room were unmatched, and we are grateful for everyone who came out and made this night one to remember!

***Mental Health Matters: Click the flyer or Scan the QR code for
FREE Counseling💖***

Talk it Out

COUNSELING SERVICES

A UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PARTNERSHIP

Do you know a TUSD student or family in need of
free mental health services?

FREE Counseling Services

for all enrolled TUSD students and their families.

SERVICES ARE OFFERED REMOTELY AND IN PERSON AT THE
CATALINA, PALO VERDE, MENLO AND SOUTHWEST FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTERS.

*Available to enrolled TUSD students and their families.

*No income or insurance requirements.

*Services provided by UArizona College of Education, Counseling Program, Masters in Counseling Students.

Provided by TUSD Family Resource
Centers, in partnership with UArizona
College of Education, Counseling Program.



TUCSON UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contact your school
counselor or any TUSD
Family Resource Center for
more information.

To request Talk It Out
services, go to
bit.ly/3Pfa4Cr
or scan here.



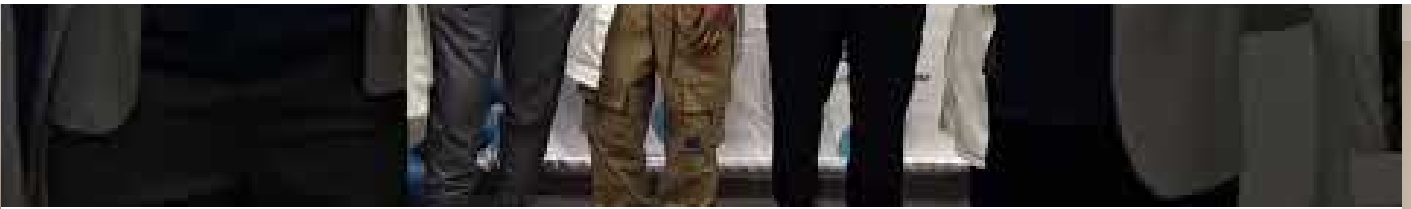
*****Available to TUSD students and immediate family members*****

Click the Here to Meet the AASSD Staff!

Diversity in Dentistry Summit!

Diversity in Dentistry 2024





📸🌟 *Diversity in Dentistry Summit: Phoenix 2023* 🌟📸

We're thrilled to share highlights from an inspiring and transformative trip to Phoenix for this year's Diversity in Dentistry Summit! 🙌❤️

Our future dental professionals had the incredible opportunity to connect with mentors, gain hands-on experience, and learn firsthand what it takes to succeed in dentistry. Huge shoutout to Dr. Laila Hishaw, whose dedication to diversifying this field is making a lasting impact! 🌟🦷

From insightful sessions to meaningful conversations, and of course, some awesome swag and gifts, our students are leaving empowered and ready to make a difference! 📦👉📱🔗

Thank you to our Program Coordinator, Shermaine Fort and everyone who made this event possible! Together, we're shaping the future of a more inclusive and diverse dental community. 🦷❤️

#DiversityInDentistry #DentalMentorship #PhoenixSummit #FutureDentists
#RepresentationMatters

Parents & Guardians, We Are Here to Help

African American Student Services has your back !



African American Student Service
Department (AASSD) offers direct services to
all schools within TUSD.
Our goal is to support students and families
in having a successful School Year.

What we do:

- ◆ Build trusting relationships with students and families
- ◆ Encourage positive academic engagement and behavior
- ◆ Provide regular classroom check -ins
- ◆ Advocate for student/family concerns
- ◆ Attend student meetings upon family request
- ◆ Monitor academic progress, discipline, and attendance
- ◆ Connect students/families with resources
- ◆ Invite students/families to attend AASSD sponsored events and activities

Supporting success:
backing every student
every step of the way!

Contact: 520-225-3640



Dr. Tonya R. Strozier

Director

