

Dear School Board Members,

Tonight, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a group of dedicated employees and community members who were instrumental in taking a group of students on a tour of historically Black colleges and Universities.

I would like to recognize the following people; if you are present, please come up:

- Cal Harris
- Cheryl Reitan
- Marlon Grant
- Brigette Eckwood
- Dan Lew
- Stephanie Williams
- LaVenda Vann
- Valencia Ruprecht

Because of these individuals, in October, they and a group of 16 teenagers embarked on a trip to visit and explore historically Black colleges and universities. The 8 day, 2,800-mile trip took them to eight institutions.

They visited:

Fisk University and Lemoyne-Owen College in Tennessee  
Spelman College and Morehouse College in Georgia  
Tuskegee University in Alabama  
Alcorn State University and Tougaloo College in Mississippi  
Lincoln University in Missouri.

One student wrote this in a letter to the editor to the Duluth News Tribune:

*"While at these schools, we learned about the many people who started the legacies of historically Black colleges and universities. We also got to visit other popular and exciting places in the South like Beale Street, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Selma Bridge, and Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park. We visited the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where MLK was assassinated, and we also got to learn about segregation in the South and the many movements that happened because of it. I was very happy that we got to learn about Medgar Evers, Emmet Till, the Freedom Riders, Booker T. Washington, and more Black historical figures who are the reason we have these schools now. I want people to know about it and what we learned so we can have more trips like it."*

I want to thank these people for giving our students this opportunity and experience.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Bonds  
Assistant Superintendent