



Education First Foundation, Inc.



July 23, 2013

Dear Principals,

This fall your students will have the opportunity to participate in a college and career readiness program. The Showcase of HBCU is a one day college preparation program, **One Stop Shop** designed for students to obtain a better understanding of the college admissions process and the freshman experience. There will be representatives present from Kentucky State University (KSU) and other colleges to engage with students and discuss the admissions process. The offices of admissions, housing, freshman studies, financial aid, etc. will be there to answer any questions your students have.

The Showcase of HBCU is a college and career fair and pre-college conference for grades 8 to 12. It will be held on **November 15, 2013** in Louisville at the Kentucky International Convention Center. The program consists of five components:

- **HBCU Champions Program:** designed to prepare students for the college fair.
- **Education First Pre-College Conference:** offering classes for students and parents.
- **College Fair:** featuring Kentucky State University and local colleges.
- **Career Fair:** putting a local face on all major career fields.
- **Senior Seminar:** a one-on-one opportunity for students to speak with a college representative about their academic profile.

Additionally, The KSU Department of Agriculture will focus on the bountiful career opportunities in the field of agriculture and food sciences, or STEM careers. Their presentation will feature a freshwater pond, livestock, exploratory work stations, and food science as vegetation and/or dairy straight to the dinner table.

What does HBCU stand for? The acronym HBCU was created in the ruling of 1965 Title III Higher Education Act. It uniquely defines an HBCU as any **Historically Black College and University** that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was and is the education of Black (African) Americans. Does this mean that only black students should apply and/or attend the college fair or have the opportunity to be accepted to an HBCU? No, HBCU's welcome all who want to learn and achieve a higher education. Furthermore, these institutions do not discriminate against ones race, sex, and/or ethnic origin.

HBCUs represent about 3% of the nation's nearly 4000 colleges and graduate nearly 20% of all African American baccalaureate degrees. HBCUs produce over 50% of America's black teachers, and 40% of black lawyers and doctors. While many educators are scrambling to find ways to achieve results in urban schools with minority students, HBCUs have a higher percentage of success stories.

We appreciate your collaboration with our foundation. As a community partner we have reached over 12,000 students with college and career opportunities. Thank you for allowing your students to explore the HBCU experience!

Sincerely,

Andrea J Houston

Andrea Houston
Executive Director