

Alfred Street Baptist Church Presents 4th Annual College Festival to Spotlight Historically Black Colleges and Universities on February 18, 2006 On-Site Admissions Offered

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—Alfred Street Baptist Church in Old Town Alexandria will host its 4th annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Festival on Saturday, February 18th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are institutions established before 1964. Rooted in the segregated South more than a century ago, they were the sole source of higher education for African-Americans.

On-site admissions will be offered again during this year's festival. The HBCUs offering on-site admissions are Benedict College, Clark Atlanta University, Delaware State University, Hampton University, Johnson C. Smith University, Lincoln University (PA), Norfolk State University, St. Augustine's College, the University of the District of Columbia, Virginia State University, and Virginia Union University. Last year was the first time that on-site admissions were offered. This unique festival feature resulted in approximately 200 interviews being conducted by college representatives and a total of 145 admissions that were granted on the spot during the college festival. In addition to the on-site admissions that were granted last year, approximately 100 applications fees were waived and several scholarships were offered. Students were advised ahead of time to come with the right attitude and to be positive, confident, and professional. They were also instructed to bring several copies of various documents such as transcripts, completed college applications, SAT scores, and letters of recommendations. The same requirements hold for this year. Organizers are strongly advising students to be well prepared this year because on-site admission is a serious process that is not taken lightly by the college representatives.

Among the numerous other HBCUs expected at this year's festival are Alcorn State University, Bennett College, Bowie State University, Howard University, Florida A&M University, Morehouse College, North Carolina A&T, North Carolina Central University, and Winston Salem State University.

The theme for the 4th annual college festival is "Education is the Key to a Promising Future". As with the previous festivals, the targeted audience is students and parents who are interested in learning more about historically black colleges and universities and how to prepare for college life. Free seminar topics include "Getting Organized for College," "The Road Map to College" and "Timely Tips for Parents" with facilitators from the U.S. Department of Education and DC Public Schools Administration.

Festival attendees will be eligible to win door prizes, among which will be two \$500 Presidential Classroom scholarships.

Alfred Street will continue to spotlight HBCUs at its 7:55 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. worship services on Sunday, February 19, 2006. During the 10:55 a.m. service, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Horace A. Judson, president of Grambling State University in Grambling, LA.

The festival is free and open to the public. Registration forms and information are available on the church Web site at www.alfredstreet.org. You can also contact the church office at 703-683-2222 or festival organizer Vance Davis at (202) 584-1208.

The historic Alfred Street Baptist Church is located at 301 South Alfred Street in Old Town Alexandria. The pastor is Rev. John O. Peterson Sr.; assistant minister is Rev. Faye S. Gunn.

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