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UCAN KICKS OFF NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH 12-CITY COLLEGE RECRUITMENT TOUR

Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Admit Qualified Students "On-The-Spot"

SACRAMENTO—Thousands of students from throughout California and Las Vegas, NV will gather at various high schools, colleges, churches and community centers to meet with admissions officials and recruiters from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as the United College Action Network (U-CAN) hosts its 16th annual "Historically Black" college recruitment fair from September 12 through September 26, 2015.

College admission officers from more than 35 HBCUs, representing hundreds of majors and professional degrees will be available in Sacramento, San Francisco, Elk Grove, Oakland, Fairfield, Vallejo, Antioch, San Bernardino, Fontana, Rialto, Moreno Valley and Las Vegas to answer questions, take applications, review transcripts, provide financial aid information, waive application fees and admit qualified students "on-thespot".

> This year's Las Vegas U-CAN HBCU College Recruitment Fair will be hosted at the Doolittle Community Center 1950 North J Street, Las Vegas, NV 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

U-CAN's college fairs are free and open to all students. Parents are encouraged to attend with their students.

"We pride ourselves on working with students who may not have the highest GPA but desires to go to a four-year college or university and are willing to work to get it done," said Dr. Alan Rowe, president of U-CAN. "Our goal is to get 100 percent of youth who go through our program into college."

Founded in Sacramento, California in 1988, U-CAN is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to inspire, prepare, and support students, especially economically and culturally disadvantaged and at-risk youth, in gaining admission to and graduating from four-year colleges and universities. U-CAN has assisted more than 58,000 students through its high school programs that prepare students for academic and career success after high school. More than half of U-CAN scholars who go to college choose to attend an HBCU. Since its inception, some 15,000 U-CAN scholars have been admitted to HBCUs, of which 7,500 received \$54 million (\$67,000,000) in scholarship from U-CAN's HBCU partners.

UCAN focuses on HBCU's because their mission and values matches its own. Rowe said HBCUs' 18-1 to 25-1 student/faculty ratio provide a smaller more nurturing environments that "many of our students need to flourish during the four-year college experience."

Moreover, HBCUs are more open to working with promising students with marginal grade point averages, and have proven and effective education strategies that ensure academic success and high graduation rates, Rowe said.

The financial bottom line is that "HBCUs are more affordable than many colleges in California's state and university systems and provide the same quality of education and training," Rowe said. In addition to foreign study programs and internships, Rowe said many HBCUs have partnerships that allow their students to transfer to other top universities in the country.

Rowe, who founded U-CAN with his wife Donna Rowe, stresses opportunity in education for all students. He said, "We have expanded our college recruitment fair from Sacramento to throughout Northern California, including the Bay Area, the Central Valley and California's Inland Empire.

"Our goal is to include other ethnic and cultural groups shut out of mainstream academia that can benefit from the wonderful opportunities offered by HBCUs,"

Graduating seniors should bring several copies of their transcript, SAT/ACT scores (if taken), two letters of recommendation and a personal essay, if available to qualify for on-the-spot admission. High School Juniors are also encouraged to attend and should bring copies of their transcripts.

For more information visit U-CAN's website at <u>www.ucangotocollege.org</u> or contact U-CAN at 916-896-3000 or by email at <u>ucan@ucangtc.org</u>.

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