

HBCA Newsletter

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



January 2025



Student tour group visiting Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA

Our Annual HBCU Tour

From April 9 to 14, 2024, HBCA marked its 30th anniversary of offering an educational program to youth in and around New London County. Founded in 1992 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, HBCA was created by a group of like-minded individuals committed to promoting higher education, particularly with a focus on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The organization was born out of a grassroots effort, driven by the recognition of a need: two local high schools with significant African American student populations lacked HBCU catalogs in their college libraries.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 caused a two-year hiatus. Following this break, we made our comeback with a three-day local college tour, which included visits to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI, Southern Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Central Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut.

The program offers more than just a college tour. Participants also receive invaluable information about financial aid through a lecture facilitated by Ms. Victoria Vasquez of Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative via Three Rivers Community College.

Understanding that not all students will attend an HBCU or may prefer to stay close to home, we also host a local college seminar. Past participants in this seminar have included Mitchell College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern the University of Connecticut, the United States Coast Guard Academy, Three Rivers Community College, and Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI.

This program is designed to expose students to various types of colleges, including community colleges, private universities, in-state and out-of-state universities.

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HBCU Tour (Cont'd)



Pictured above: Six seniors who were accepted on the spot by Bowie State University, accompanied by their chaperones, Cierra and Fallyn.

During our student orientation, we hosted a panel discussion centered around the "game of life." The panel featured Deaci Wallen, Gerald Luter, Kia Baird, and members of the Electric Boat Black Engagement Council. Students engaged with these young professionals, who shared their personal life experiences.



Additionally, a brief fireside chat was held with State Representatives Anthony Nolan and Durell Wilson, who offered valuable advice, encouraging students not to take anything for granted.

The 2025 college tour is scheduled to include visits to Cheyney State University and Villanova University in Pennsylvania, as well as Morgan State University, Howard University, Delaware State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Thanks to a successful fundraiser and generous supporters, we are able to offer this program at a low fee of \$295, which covers transportation, lodging, two meals per day, and an activity.

HBCA Awards Two Scholarships

HBCA awarded scholarships to two graduating high school seniors. The Scarangella Scholarship, worth \$2,000, was presented to Jayla Taylor, a graduate of New London High School. Jayla participated in the college tour program and will continue her education at Howard University, where she plans to major in Mathematics. This scholarship, funded by Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Angela Scarangella, is awarded annually in honor of their friend.

HBCA's Justin Morrill Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, was awarded to Shauna Jean-Francois, a graduate of New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus. Shauna is currently attending the University of Connecticut, where she plans to major in Pharmaceutical Science with the goal of bringing a more holistic approach to the field of medicine.

Comedy Show Fundraiser

On May 31st, we held a major fundraising event, and as seen in the photo below, members were presented the big check from Funny4Funds organizers. The event was a comedy show hosted at the VFW in Uncasville, CT, and it was a great success, with attendees asking if we would host it again next year.



Thanks to the support of show sponsors, raffle prize donations, and show attendees, we raised \$7,350. This has allowed us to increase our scholarship named in honor of Justin S. Morrill, a 1800s Congressman known for Morrill Land-Grant Acts, to \$1,000 and continue offering the college tour at an affordable fee.

Fundraiser (Cont'd)

We are grateful to the many contributors (monetary donors, raffle prize contributors, silent and live auction item contributors, including the Boston Celtics Foundation). In addition to our numerous contributors and 106 ticket holders, we had 31 show sponsors.

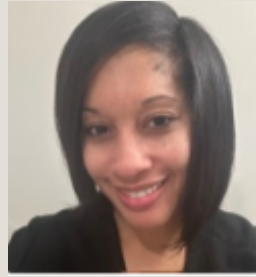
Comedy Show Sponsors

Mr. Louis Allen, CT
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High School Class of 2024

Of the 28 students in the graduating high school class of 2024 who attended the college tour program, we were able to contact 20. 19 of the 20 are attending a college or university. Most significant is 6 are at UConn, 4 are in schools in Massachusetts, and 3 are attending an HBCU. These are great results because our main objective is to promote higher education.

HBCA Success Story



Our latest alumna of the month, Dr. Tempestt Evans grew up in Groton, CT and graduated from Robert E. Fitch Senior High School in 2005. She attended the college tour in 2003 and 2004 where she was introduced to Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

She then went on to attend Winston-Salem State University where she majored in Biology. Upon graduation she completed a post- baccalaureate program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She then completed her dental school training at the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry.

Tempestt completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency program at Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Arizona. From 2019-2023 she worked as the Chief Dental Officer at the Indian Health Service - Mashpee Wampanoag Family Dental Clinic in Mashpee, MA.

She currently works as an associate dentist at Carver Smiles in Carver, MA. We are proud to present her as the HBCA alumna of the month.

NAACP Honors HBCA

On June 28, 2024, the NAACP New London branch honored HBCA with the Education Award. The ceremony took place at the Port-n-Starboard Ocean Front Banquet Center in New London, CT, where the award was presented to President Vouise Fonville by NAACP President Jean Jordan.

HBCA members in attendance include Vouise Fonville, Ray Malone, Sandra Richardson, Theresa Taylor, Cierra Patrick, Gloria Dover, Fallyn Fonville-Smith, and Dorthiea Harper.

At the end of the event, HBCA members presented President Fonville and Vice President Malone with handcrafted plaques (pictured below) representing their respective alma maters, Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina A&T State University in recognition of their years of leadership.



Members pictured above from left to right, Cierra Patrick, Ray Malone, Sandra Richardson, Vouise Fonville, Fallyn Smith-Fonville, Dorthiea Harper, and Theresa Taylor.



A Note to Our Contributors

We would like to extend a big thank you to New London High School Multi-Magnet School Campus and Principal Bryan Mahan for their generous in-kind contribution, providing a home base for HBCA.

We also want to recognize Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Angela Scarangella, who have funded a scholarship for a graduating high school senior for the past three years.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Liz Duarte for her long-time support of HBCA, sponsoring two students each year.

We are grateful to the Bodenwein Benevolent Foundation for their ongoing support, which has helped us to keep the cost low.

Last but not least, we appreciate the contributions from Attorney Sarette Williams, Attorney Joaquin Madry, State Representative Anthony Nolan, Mr. Leo Butler & Shirley Kutia (NFA), and Robert Clark (NLHS)

Thank you for your continued support!

2025 Events Calendar

College Prep

- Informational Zoom Presentation - 1/29
- Financial Aid Workshop - 2/13
- Local College Seminar - 3/1
- Student Orientation - 3/29
- College Tour - 4/14 - 18

Fundraiser

- Comedy Show - 06/6/2025
Location: VFW - Uncasville, CT

Contact us if you want to be a show sponsor, donate a raffle prize, or donate funds..

Membership Info

HBCA is a non-profit organization with a volunteer-based membership and board of directors. We hold virtual meetings on the second Monday of each month, enabling members from across the nation to participate remotely. Members in good standing pay an annual dues of \$25.