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SKATING



30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

HBCU  
TOUR



MARCH 15-21, 2025

THE OLYMPIC TOUR

REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 1, 2024

WWW.32NDST.US





Dear Participating Student and Parents:

Welcome to the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual “Unity Through Knowledge” HBCU College Tour**. I am truly honored that you have selected our program in conjunction with your college preparatory plans.

The foremost goal and purpose of this tour is to provide you with a clear and accurate picture of the educational and cultural opportunities available at historically black colleges and universities.

Although we primarily visit predominantly black universities, this tour is committed to enhancing your overall understanding of the power in unity and in knowledge wherever you pursue higher education.

Our program has been carefully designed to provide you with a realistic college itinerary and atmosphere experience by giving you ample opportunity to explore and critique your time, organizational, and money management skills. In addition, everything you have wanted to know (and more) about the schools and the cities we are visiting will be at your fingertips.

This **Parent & Student Handbook** has been created to hopefully answer any questions or concerns that you may have. However, please feel free to ask any questions that you may have during our monthly tour meetings. Please sign the enclosed document (Page 9) that requires a signature (if not completed online) and return it by **November 16, 2024**.

Our chaperone team will be available to answer questions at our tour meetings on **September 21 \* October 19 \* November 16 \* January 20 \* February 2** from 10 AM to 12 PM. All meetings will be held at Nehemiah Ministries located at 3606 N. Rancho \* Suite 144 (located inside the Rancho/Gowan Business Park) \* Las Vegas, NV 89130.

Thank you for supporting this tour and for the opportunity to show your student what “A Different World” really looks like.

Sincerely yours,  
Rev. Kelcey A. West  
Tour Founder & Director  
32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater  
3606 N. Rancho Drive \* Suite 144 \* Las Vegas, Nevada 89130  
OFFICE: (702) 860-6638  
WEB: [www.32ndst.us](http://www.32ndst.us)  
EMAIL: [K32west@aol.com](mailto:K32west@aol.com)



## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE PRICE GUARANTEE

The published cost of this tour is final and is not subject to change.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE PRICE EXCLUSIONS

Tour package price does not include any meals, gratuities, telephone calls, and personal or incidental items, or any other features not listed except where otherwise noted.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round trip airline ticket via **Southwest Airlines**
- **(7)** Day deluxe coach travel
- **(6)** Nightly hotel accommodations (triple or quad occupancy) via **Hyatt Place Hotels**
- **(9)** Campus tours of pre-scheduled universities (See itinerary for complete details)
- **(1)** Youth Conference
- Nightly college prep workshops and life-applicable discussions
- Sightseeing visits to historical landmarks and cultural attractions
- A **13:1** Student/Chaperone ratio

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

**Saturday, December 7, 2024** - 50% of your published tour cost must be submitted.

**Saturday, January 25, 2025** – 75% of your published tour cost must be submitted.

**Saturday, February 22, 2025** – 100% of the published tour cost must be submitted.

**The above schedule must be followed to avoid reservation cancellation.**

There is a \$35 service fee for returned checks.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

Due to changes in contracting with airlines, charters, and hotels, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater is unable to provide any refunds unless the tour is canceled before departure.

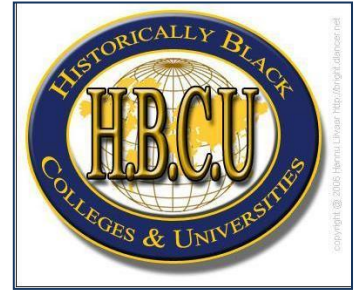
**SUBSTITUTE PERSON:** Students wishing to substitute for another person in their place may do so by providing a letter of withdrawal, a new application, and an additional \$100 non-refundable deposit.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Our tour package is not responsible for the following:

- Providing participants with spending money or credit loans
- Weather conditions/acts of God
- Future transportation for tour participants who leave the tour and/or who break the local laws and/or tour rules (Parents will be notified and will be financially responsible for all remaining transportation, lodging, and legal arrangements)
- Any health problems (Before, during or after the tour)

- Property damage and/or extracurricular hotel bills caused by tour participants
- All meals and beverages
- Additional sightseeing and entrance fees other than those specified in the itinerary.
- Airport (excess baggage fees) and dining tips



## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Our tour requires mature behavior to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment. Examples of inappropriate behavior are (but not limited to):

- Disrespect of chaperones, students, and tour affiliates
- Fighting or engaging in abusive/physical provoking discussions
- Leaving the tour to visit family, friends and/or for any other reason
- Using profanity or offensive slang language
- Reporting tardy
- Breaking any laws
- Engaging in any form of harassment or sexual activity
- Engaging or possessing any forms of drugs and alcohol
- Entertaining/visitation from members of the opposite sex within a hotel room and/or beyond the designated areas.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE DRESS CODE

**Females** are prohibited from wearing crop tops, strapless, low-cut clothing, clothing with high slits, tops and outfits that provide minimum coverage and clothing that exhibits obscene or controversial slogans or advertising.

**Males** are prohibited from wearing sagging pants, headgear of any type inside of buildings, and clothing that exhibit obscene or controversial slogans or advertising.

32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater maintains the right to determine which types of dress, fashion, fads, or appearance disrupt our educational program and that may be a potential safety hazard.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY TOUR MEETINGS

All tour participants and parents are required to attend as many tour meetings as possible to meet the chaperone and stay abreast on all tour updates, changes, and rules. It is also the responsibility of the students to utilize the tour meetings to meet and select their roommates prior to the start of the tour.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE GENERAL POLICIES

32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater reserves the right to make additions or deletions during the trip to ensure the well-being of the participants. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen items. Reservations are not transferable at any time. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater cannot guarantee travel arrangements for tour participants who miss the departure for any reason.

**Responsibility:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater agrees to accept to accept the tour participant in consideration for their agreement to the following: 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater acts only in the capacity of an organizer its volunteers, are not agents of the suppliers of travel services and accommodations, and are not liable for any claims, suits, actions, delays, inconveniences, strikes, wars, injuries, or any other expenses of any kind or any nature, caused by any other company providing travel services or accommodations.

## **UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **What is the “Unity Through Knowledge” HBCU Tour?**

Founded in 1994 by Rev. Kelcey West, this annual Spring Break experience has been designed to encourage students to explore all avenues of higher learning while learning time, money, and self-management skills.

### **What separates the “Unity Through Knowledge” HBCU Tour from other tours?**

Our tour has set the standard in black college tours by consistently creating new and improved college preparatory programs. We have built our foundation on the philosophy of providing great trips at an affordable price. Our alliance with historical black colleges and Clark County High Schools adds to our credibility, promotion, and awareness. We pride ourselves in honest advertising. Our promotional advertisements are clear, complete, and uncomplicated. We provide a complete college atmosphere, with dormitory style housing, opportunities for our guests to explore and understand travel etiquette, self-responsibility, and money management through a non-stop itinerary.

In addition, we understand the need for free time and the freedom to eat as you please. Our company is staffed with experienced chaperones who are dedicated to the objectives and future success of this tour.

### **Are there any guarantees of college entry?**

32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater makes no guarantees regarding the admission or scholarship decision of any college or university.

### **Which universities do you visit?**

We offer the following four tour packages that rotate on an annual basis:

**THE BAYOU TOUR:** ALCORN STATE \* DILLARD \* GRAMBLING STATE \* JACKSON STATE \* PRAIRIE VIEW SOUTHERN \* TEXAS SOUTHERN \* XAVIER

**THE OLYMPIC TOUR:** ALABAMA STATE \* CLARK-ATLANTA \* FLORIDA A&M \* FORT VALLEY STATE MOREHOUSE \* MORRIS BROWN \* SPELMAN \* TUSKEGEE

**THE PRESIDENTIAL TOUR:** BOWIE STATE \* COPPIN STATE \* HAMPTON \* HOWARD \* MORGAN STATE NORFOLK STATE \* VIRGINIA STATE \* VIRGINIA UNION



**THE CAROLINA TOUR:** BENEDICT \* BENNETT \* CLAFLIN \* FAYETTEVILLE \* JOHNSON C. SMITH \* NORTH CAROLINA A&T \* NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL \* SHAW \* SOUTH CAROLINA STATE \* ST. AUGUSTINE \* WINSTON-SALEM STATE

### **Can parents attend the tour?**

No, but we do encourage parents to visit their child's campus of choice before paying tuition.

### **How many students attend a tour?**

A maximum capacity is 156 students.

### **How much spending money will students need on the tour?**

Students are encouraged to bring an estimated **\$400** to cover food and souvenir shopping in the form of cash, debit and/or credit card.

### **Can students visit family and friends during the tour?**

Students are not permitted to leave the tour for any reason including the visitation of family and friends. However, family and friends may visit students upon the pre-approval of parents and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater (restrictions will apply and will be discussed during tour meetings).

### **How do parents stay in touch with their student during the tour?**

32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater provides a very detailed itinerary that includes the time, location, address and telephone number for every tour visit. Cellular phones and laptops are permitted but may not be used during tours and seminars.

### **Who are the chaperones?**

32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater maintains a 13:1 chaperone to student ratio under the leadership of Rev. Kelcey West (Tour Director), Rev. Carmen West, Kevin Winton, Zale Harris, Rev. Kyle West, Alexis West, Rev. Tracey Ealy, Treda Ealy, Jamila Walker, Lonnie Walker III, Antanus Pullum, Chancellor Davis,

### **What are the tour requirements?**

To ensure congenial membership, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the tour group. All students must be currently enrolled in high school with a minimum 2.0 GPA (transcript required).

### **What is 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater?**

Founded in 1993 by Kelcey West, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater is a recognized 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to performing original theatrical plays, providing motivational speaking seminars and community workshops.



## Who Is Rev. Kelcey A. West?

Rev. Kelcey A. West, Tour Director is a 1996 graduate of the UNLV. A native of Pontiac, Michigan, West is the Founder of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater and the founding Pastor of Nehemiah Ministries Christian Church. His theatrical credits include writing, directing, and producing *Two-Sided Coins* ('93), *A Gift Called Tomorrow* ('94), *Quiet Time To Play* ('94), and *If This World Were Mine* ('95). In 1994, at 23 years of age, West organized the inaugural Bayou HBCU tour with 47 students.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE TRAVEL TIPS

- Never leave your bags or belongings unattended when traveling. It only takes a few seconds for someone to walk away with your stuff. Even in a bathroom, keep a spare hand on your belongings.
- Lock your suitcases. Most padlocks which come with luggage use generic keys and are very flimsy. Buy a letter key lock or combination lock. Anything that can delay a thief (even by a few seconds) may be enough of a deterrent to prevent a possible theft.
- Always keep all valuables (money, traveler's checks, credit cards, jewelry, cameras, etc.) with you. Never put these things in checked luggage. Use a money belt or pack these belongings in your immediate carry-on bag. Don't put anything in checked luggage that you would truly hate to lose.
- Be careful if you travel with a laptop computer or camcorder, for they have become the target choice for would be thieves. At an airport, always keep your briefcase, computer case, or camcorder bag with you at all times.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE PACKING TIPS

- Pack shoes that can be used to accommodate various outfits.
- Bring a travel raincoat and/or travel umbrella.
- Try to pack clothes with fabrics that require little care.
- Pack a change of clothes (under garments) in your carry-on piece of luggage.
- Always pack toiletry sample sizes to conserve space in your luggage.
- For maximum space roll items which do not wrinkle.
- Pack a collapsible and/or expandable bag to carry items you purchase or receive during the tour.
- Put dresses, suits, shirts, etc. in plastic bags to minimize wrinkling.
- Consider bringing an extra cellphone charger!

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

**Air Turbulence:** Remain in your seats and follow the captain's and/or stewardess' directions.

**Charter Failure:** Remain quietly in your seat and follow the chaperones and bus driver's directions.

**Hotel Fire:** Report to the bus via the staircases. Do not use any elevators.

**Hotel Power Outage:** Remain in your room and notify the chaperones for further assistance.

**Tornado, Hurricane, or Severe Thunderstorm:** Report and remain in your hotel restroom until given further directions by chaperones and/or hotel officials.

**If You and/or A Fellow Student Get Sick During the Tour:** Immediately notify the chaperones and wait for assistance. By no means are you to give or accept medicine from another student and/or administer first-aid.

**Health, Security and/or Legal Problems Inside A Shopping Mall:** Report to the mall office/security guard and have the chaperones paged. Never engage in any verbal/physical confrontations with anyone.

**If A Fellow Students Gets Lost:** Report or remain quietly on the bus and allow the chaperones and officials to form a search team.

**Harassment:** Please notify a chaperone immediately if you are being sexually, religiously, verbally, and/or physically harassed.

**Student Code of Conduct Contract:** If someone or persons in your room are jeopardizing your registration by breaking a rule, please notify a chaperone immediately.

## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE MANDATORY STUDENT CHECKLIST

In addition to learning how to verbally introduce oneself during the tour, all participating students are required to prepare a portfolio prior to travel. Portfolios must include the following:



**Seniors:** Resume, Official Transcript, ACT/SAT Scores, (3) Letters of Recommendation and a 500-word sample essay on **LEADERSHIP**.

**Seniors should prepare a packet for each school we visit.**

**Juniors:** Resume, Unofficial Transcript, ACT/SAT Scores, (2) Letter of Recommendation and a 400-word sample essay on **SUCCESS**.

**Freshman & Sophomores:** Resume, Unofficial Transcript, PSAT Scores, (1) Letter of Recommendation and a 300-word essay on **STRATEGIC PLANNING**.





## UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EMERGENCY HEALTH FORM (also available online)

In connection with the participation of my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, on The Unity Through Knowledge Black College Tour, this to authorize the Rev. Kelcey A. West, Tour Director, or his designee to consent to the rendering of any medical treatment which they consider to be appropriate, if my child is injured or becomes ill during the tour. This is to further authorize any hospital, physician, emergency medical technician or other health care provider to provide such medical treatment and care as may be required for the health, safety and well-being of my child. I hereby release any claims which I might otherwise have against any such health care provider for the rendition of medical services to my child in reliance upon this Medical Authorization. I likewise release any claims which I might otherwise have against the Unity Through Knowledge HBCU Tour, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater and its staff for the authorization of such medical care or treatment for my child as any of the tour chaperones believe to be warranted under the circumstances.

I understand and agree that I am financially responsible for all charges incurred in connection with such medical treatment. List name/address/phone number/Group or Policy Number of health care insurance carrier (if possible): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial \_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Legal Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Legal Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any known health conditions:

Asthma	Seizures	Glasses/Contact Lens	Blood Disorder
Diabetes	Hearing Aid	Muscular Disease	Heart Problem
Neurological	Other: _____		

Potentially allergic to: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving/taking medication? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please list \_\_\_\_\_

Can the student receive over the counter medicine? \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I have read and understand the terms and rules of this tour

[ ] I have received a copy of the "Unity Through Knowledge" HBCU Tour Itinerary

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent or Legal Guardian Signature/Date**

**HBCU TOUR MEETING NOTES:** (Always bring a pen/pencil and paper to our meetings)

