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The Black Votes Matter Tour Banquet

Preston Love Jr.

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Black Votes Matter
UNO Adjunct Professor, Preston Love Jr.
Prestonlovejr.com

22300Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

The Black Votes Matter Tour Banquet

In July 2017, we had a vision that was rooted in my experience, research, and observation of our youth. The challenge is that our youth, as wonderful as they may be, and with all their innate potential, by and large, have little or no knowledge of their Black and civil rights history. Thus, our vision.

As many know, the vision was to provide as many youths as possible with knowledge, face to face experience and inspiration, as it relates to that history and the development of future leaders. Our strategy was, and is, a significantly transformative experience by touring many of the iconic Black history sites and locations.

Thus, the 2018 “Walking in Black History Tour”:

- 40 high school kids from OPS, along with 10 chaperones and staff
- Memphis, Birmingham, Tuskegee, Selma, Edmond Pettus Bridge, Montgomery and Atlanta
- All Expenses paid (cost of approximately \$45,000.00)
- Many highlights including:
 1. The filming footage for a full-length documentary
 2. A comprehensive and complete report of the student’s evaluations and feedback from the tour
 3. Required Student Journaling
 4. Planned activities to build team skills
 5. Essay contest
- Plan, going forward an annual tour

Thus the 2019 “Face to Face with Black History Tour”

- 40 high school kids from OPS, along with 10 chaperones and staff
- Memphis, Birmingham, Tuskegee, Selma, Edmond Pettus Bridge, Montgomery and Atlanta
- All Expenses paid (cost of approximately \$40,000.00)
- Many Tour enhancements including:
 1. A collaborative with Bellevue University to develop a two-pronged module directed towards tracking and providing educational modules all directed towards tracking and improving the student outcomes
 2. To increase the outreach to other north Omaha social and youth groups

3. To host an Annual Banquet to complete one year and launch the next years' tour

Thus the 2018 “Face to Face with Black History Tour” annual banquet.

- Held Friday, October 12, 2018, 7:00 P.M., at Scott Conference Center
- Banquet highlights included
 1. Recognition of the 2018 student tour participants
 2. Full house of approx. 200
 3. MC, KETV anchor Chihn Doan
 4. Special Guests: Johnny Rodgers and is Heisman Trophy, 101.3fm Morning show host Michael Scott
 5. Presentations/performances from a select group of 2018 student participants
 6. The awarding of the winners of the Tour Participant Essay Contest

“When I get financially stable, I want to give back to my community and educate the youth. Like my grandpa always says, “they fear an educated black man,” and with that being said, you can be stripped away from everything but one thing that no one can take from you is knowledge. With knowledge there is power, and I’ve learned that power doesn’t always mean authority. Dr. Cheryl Logan, OPS Superintendent, has taught me, with power you can influence.” from the winning essay from 2018 Tour North High Student, Justus Jeanpierre

7. Recognition of key tour supporters
8. Awesome Premier Tour documentary: Director Lend Frison and Producer Joe Frost
9. Featured speaker, Dr. Edmond Wheeler, President ITC, Atlanta, GA

Watch for more information about the 2019 Tour.

Next Omaha Star Issue: The New Face of North Omaha, 2018: Our Asian/Karen Neighbors Part II