

New Adventures of MCC Upward Bound's 2017 Heritage College Tour

This year, 30 MCC Upward Bound (UB) students had a blast on our annual weeklong Heritage College Tour to Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. The colleges included University of Maryland – College Park, Morgan State University, Howard University, and Virginia State University; the last three are historically black colleges and universities. It was the first time that many of the freshman and sophomore students traveled outside of Rochester, New York.

Our trip began in Pennsylvania visiting the Liberty Bell and learning the history behind some of America's forefathers at the National Constitution Center. It continued with a tour of Morgan State, where many students were impressed with its open and supportive admissions office, which offered a free application, available even to juniors in September. We were fortunate enough to have an MCC UB alumna, Jaynell, who's now attending Morgan State, meet with current students in the program. Jaynell is an Engineering major in her senior year who has received a full tuition scholarship and an internship at NASA while in college. She had a conversation with UB students about her transition from high school to college including being away from family and time management for classes and work. Following the tour, we went to Baltimore's National Aquarium where we saw a variety of exhibits exploring underwater creatures.

Wednesday was another productive day starting with a visit to Arlington Cemetery where we witnessed the ceremonial changing of the guard at the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers, and had lunch on Howard University's prestigious campus. Afterwards, at the Smithsonian's Museum of Native American History, our students went on a scavenger hunt. We capped off the day with a Twilight tour visiting some of D.C.'s popular historical monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol Building, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Roosevelt Memorial.



