Shelton State Student Named Historically Black Colleges and Universities 2014 HBCU All-Stars

Tuscaloosa - Morgan Curry, a student at Shelton State Community College, has been named to the first class of HBCU All-Stars, by The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCU).

Morgan LaRon Curry is a sophomore at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama studying in public relations and Spanish. He has also been a Shelton State ambassador for the past two years and currently serves as social coordinator for his team. Curry plans to finish his basics at Shelton and then transfer to The University of Alabama. At 19, the 2012 Walker High School graduate is one of the two HBCU All-Stars currently studying in Tuscaloosa.

As an ambassador at Shelton, it is Curry’s responsibility to volunteer. He is one of the 24 selected students that serve as hosts for the college and is required to obtain a minimum of 40 service hours per semester. Examples of his volunteer work consist of conducting tours at Shelton’s Martin and C.A. Fredd campuses, hosting school events, and working in his community. As social coordinator, he is also given the responsibility of organizing, planning, and executing group and school wide events. During the summer of 2013, Curry additionally acquired more than 100 hours while volunteering at Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper, AL under the attention of Renae McKinney in the community relations department.

Other achievements from Curry include being selected as Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in 2014. In 2013, the sophomore was also elected to attend the State of Alabama Community College Student Leadership conference in Huntsville, Alabama. The conference consisted of various leadership groups from community colleges all over Alabama.

In January, he was gratefully asked to represent Shelton State and speak at the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream concert at Moody Music Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama. At the sold out concert, Curry had the honors of giving awards to three honorable people in his community that have helped to promote Dr. King’s dream of freedom, equality, and justice and played a part in helping to introduce the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter John Legend. Currently, Curry is planning on attending the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington D.C. on March 2-4.

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities recognizes 75 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement. Currently enrolled at 62 HBCUs, the All-Stars were selected from 445 students who submitted completed applications that included a transcript, resume, essay, and recommendation.

“Engaging with the next generation of leaders who will graduate from HBCUs and go on to make meaningful contributions to society is crucial to the success of our community, our country and our
global competitiveness,” said George Cooper, executive director of the WHIHBCUs. “It is a privilege to announce these 75 students who have demonstrated a commitment to both their own academic achievement and making a difference in their communities, and we look forward to working with them as partners in advancing President Obama’s college completion goal.”

Over the course of the next year, the HBCU All-Stars will serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative by providing outreach and communication with their fellow students about the value of education and the Initiative as a networking resource.

Through social media and their relationships with community-based organizations, the All-Stars will share promising and proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential. In addition, the 45 female and 30 male All-Stars will participate in regional events and web chats with Ivory Toldson, deputy director of the WHIHBCUs, and other Initiative staff and professionals from a wide range of disciplines. They will also have opportunities to engage with other scholars to showcase individual and collective talent across the HBCU community.

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