**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Paul Quinn Hosts First Basketball Game in New Health and Wellness Center, Men’s and Women’s Basketball Schedule Announced**

DALLAS – NOVEMBER 5, 2021 – Paul Quinn, the nation’s first Urban Work College and first HBCU in Texas, has announced its 2021-2022 [men’s](https://pqc-edu.squarespace.com/mbb) and [women’s](https://pqc-edu.squarespace.com/wbb) basketball schedule. This season marks the first that will be played in Paul Quinn’s new 1,100-person capacity Health and Wellness Center, which includes the nationally acclaimed basketball court designed by Ryan Parker of FreeKeyThree Creative.

The Paul Quinn’s women’s team at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, followed by the men’s game at 4:00 p.m. CT. Both teams play Arlington Baptist College.

“This is a special moment,” said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President, Paul Quinn College. “We are doing so much more than introducing just one of the first new buildings on our campus in 50 years. We are providing an example of how to fuse substance with style while never allowing anyone to forget the truths of our shared histories.”

The new court features historical images of the Dallas skyline, with the goal of highlighting both the College’s and southern Dallas’ connection to the city. The facility will be used by Paul Quinn’s varsity basketball teams, cheer and dance teams, Health & Wellness majors, and community partners.

“The new basketball court is such a unique representation of our school’s collective vision for our students,” said Brandon Espinosa, Head Coach, Paul Quinn men’s basketball. “We hope this facility will further expand our basketball programs and inspire current and future players, and all Quinnites to dream big.”

Espinosa is in his third season as head men’s basketball coach. During his first season with Paul Quinn, Espinosa led the Tigers to the most conference victories since 2012-2013. Espinosa also serves as the Director of EYBL and 17U Head Coach for Drive Nation. Espinosa has held coaching positions at Bossier Parish Community College, Ranger College, and with the Dallas Mavericks NBA G-League affiliate, Texas Legends.

Leading the men’s team is senior Spencer McElway, who received RRAC All Conference honors as 1st Team All RRAC and finished the last Paul Quinn season ranked ninth in scoring, second in rebounding, and was the conference leader in blocks per game. McElway has scored over 1,000 points during his basketball career at Paul Quinn.

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) league. This year, the men’s team will play five NCAA Division 1 teams including University of Missouri, Texas State University and Tarleton State University.

“We are proud of our basketball teams and all the hard work they have put into preparing for this season,” Erica Anderson, Head Coach, Paul Quinn women’s basketball. “We are looking forward to a full house of cheering fans this season in our beautiful new facility that the whole community will enjoy.”

Leading the women’s team are Symone Carmenar, a two-time second team all-around conference player, who returns as leading scorer and rebounder, and Essynce Templeton, starting point guard. Templeton is the first player Anderson has coached for four years at Paul Quinn. This is Anderson’s sixth season as head coach for Paul Quinn with an overall record of 68-56. Previously she was at Prairie View A&M.

Please click to find the men’s [schedule](https://pqc-edu.squarespace.com/mbb) and women’s [schedule](https://pqc-edu.squarespace.com/wbb). All home games will be played in the Health and Wellness Center at Paul Quinn College, 3837 Simpson Stuart Rd, Dallas, TX 75241. Individual and group tickets may be purchased at the door for $5.00. Parking is $5.00. Concessions, featuring Chick-fil-A sandwiches, will be available on-site and Paul Quinn merchandise will be for sale. Card payment only will be accepted for parking, tickets, and merchandise. Concessions will accept card and cash payments.

Each game will have a maximum occupancy of 500. COVID-19 protocols will be in place. Masks are required, and social distancing will be enforced.

Community groups or schools interested in learning more about reserving the court or for tours can contact Lola Esmieu, Chief of Staff at pesmieu@pqc.edu.

Organizations or individuals interested in sponsorship opportunities for the building, team or home games may reach out to Alexia Valencia, Development Associate for Paul Quinn at AValencia@pqc.edu.

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