

For Immediate Release

PAUL QUINN

Paul Quinn Reimagines College Admissions With Groundbreaking Partnership With Fort Worth Independent School District

HBCU Surprises 394 Families with Acceptance Letters for Students and Two Family Members

DALLAS – February 17, 2022 – Paul Quinn unveiled a groundbreaking partnership with Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) schools to reimagine the admissions process for higher education. Paul Quinn surprised 394 high-achieving high school seniors from Dunbar High School, Eastern Hills High School, O. D. Wyatt High School, Young Men’s Leadership Academy, and Young Women’s Leadership Academy with college acceptance letters for themselves and two family members.

“We are taking our commitment to eradicate intergenerational poverty to the streets where poverty exists. We believe that higher ed’s hero narrative for first generation and Pell Grant students is doing more harm than good. By asking these students to be disproportionately responsible for the hopes, dreams, and financial resources of multiple generations of their families, we are setting them up for unnecessary stress and failure. In what other world would we ask the most inexperienced to do the most difficult things for the most disenfranchised? That is why our new admissions philosophy is so important. It weds common sense to compassion and produces success for the people who deserve to win,” said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, president of Paul Quinn.

The initial five FWISD high schools have deep roots in the African American community and have historically produced high-achieving students. Each student from the area schools has a 3.0 GPA or above and was recommended by their principals.

“We are excited to partner with Paul Quinn College on this opportunity for our students,” said Fort Worth ISD Superintendent Kent Paredes Scribner. “Paul Quinn is showing them their dreams can be realized, and their families are also welcome to come and learn alongside them.”

As the nation’s first and only urban work college, the new admissions process expands Paul Quinn’s assault on poverty via its unique approach to higher education. Going forward at the College, every admitted Pell Grant student with a 3.0 will have the ability to select two members of their family to begin the college process with them at Paul Quinn. Family members can take courses online or through PQCx, a credentialing and upskilling program. PQCx, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for its innovation, provides online continuing education and training to upskill and certify workers in various fields and concentrations.

During their campus visit, students will experience a day in the life of a college student; tour the campus, attend workshops on resume writing, and take classes led by school

leadership, including Dr. Sorrell and Dr. Christopher J. Dowdy, vice president of academic affairs.

Through Paul Quinn's Corporate Work Program, students graduate with on average less than \$10,000 in student loan debt, 100 percent receive professional development training and four years of work experience, and 60 percent have secured a job upon graduation.

Any school district interested in touring Paul Quinn with their students may contact Tayler Henley, Assistant Director of Enrollment Management Recruitment for Paul Quinn at thenley@pqc.edu.

About Paul Quinn

Paul Quinn is a private, faith-based, four-year, liberal arts-inspired college that was founded in 1872 by a group of African Methodist Episcopal Church preachers in Austin, Texas. The school's original purpose was to educate freed slaves and their offspring. Today, Paul Quinn proudly educates students of all races and socio-economic classes under the banner of its institutional ethos, WE over Me. Its mission is to provide a quality, faith-based education that addresses the academic, social, and Christian development of students. Under President Dr. Michael J. Sorrell's leadership, Paul Quinn has become one of the most innovative and respected small colleges in the nation and now serves as a model for urban higher education. *Fortune* magazine recognized President Sorrell's work and the College's transformation by naming him one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. President Sorrell is a three-time award winner of HBCU Male President of the Year by HBCU Digest and was named by *Time* magazine as one of the "31 People Changing the South."

MEDIA CONTACTS Anthea Danby at anthea@minervaco.com or 214-205-8062 or Meredith McKee at meredith@minervaco.com or 214-577-5896.

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