

DCSD Students Celebrate Early Acceptance into Morehouse College

Thirty-three male senior students from Arabia Mountain High School and Lithonia High School have already been accepted into college. On December 4, representatives from Morehouse College excitedly announced to 18 Arabia Mountain students and 15 Lithonia students that they had been accepted into Morehouse College in Atlanta.

“I’m at a loss for words,” said Arabia Mountain senior James Carter. “This is the school of my dreams. This is what I’ve been working towards throughout my high school years. I’ve always had a strong Morehouse presence in my family, as well. The groundwork has been laid, the steps have been stepped, and I’m just speechless.”

Morehouse decided to notify the students in person after seeing a high number of students from the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) apply for early admission. DCSD Executive Director of Student Advancement Christopher Key said Morehouse contacted him to express how impressed they were by the number of applicants from DeKalb, specifically Arabia Mountain High School and Lithonia High School.

“When they looked at the numbers, especially for Arabia Mountain and Lithonia, they were compelled to come to our schools to do an early admissions celebration in person,” said Mr. Key. “They were the first students to be notified of their acceptance and allowed access to a pool of additional scholarships.”

Mr. Key credits the District’s efforts to prepare students for post-secondary life for the high number of applications submitted. DCSD introduced the *Post-Secondary P.U.S.H. Plan* to increase college and career exploratory opportunities for all high school scholars this year. Through the P.U.S.H. Plan, the District intensified its focus on aligning curriculum with high academic standards and expanding post-secondary supports, including scholarship navigation workshops and one-on-one counseling.

“Part of our *Post-Secondary P.U.S.H. Plan* is to make sure our students are prepared, uplifted, and supported holistically. So, this is part of the preparation,” said Mr. Key. “The earlier students decide, the quicker they have access to merit-based, institutional scholarship dollars. It allows students to apply for housing early and be prepared for college quickly. We hope to have more students prepared and ready to make their college decisions early in the future.”

For James, his acceptance into Morehouse is a seal of approval.

“Throughout high school, I’ve always known what I wanted to do and my purpose, and for it to come to fruition and show itself truly means a lot to me,” he said.

James plans to major in biology with a minor in psychology, to become either an orthopedic surgeon or a neurosurgeon.

Lithonia SGA President Gerard L. Champion had the biggest smile on his face and jubilantly celebrated upon being notified of his acceptance. He plans to major in film and production, like Morehouse College alum and world-renowned film director Spike Lee.

“Morehouse is one of my top three schools,” he said. “However, Morehouse was the first HBCU campus that I toured during my sophomore year of high school, and touring that campus was a spiritual moment for me. I will always remember that tour.”

For more information on the District’s *Post-Secondary P.U.S.H. Plan*, click [here](#).