MEDIA RELEASE

Second Year for Step Up Pathway Program serving African American and Other Students

What: Launch of the second year of the HBCU Step Up program

When: Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Edison High School cafeteria
540 E. California Ave. (93706)

Students, staff, families and the community will gather to welcome the second group of 11th graders participating in a dual enrollment partnership with Benedict College, one of the nation’s historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Cohort 2 of the HBCU Step Up program includes 70 students from Bullard, Edison and Sunnyside high schools. The program serves African American students and other students interested in HBCUs.

Students who successfully complete the HBCU Step Up program are guaranteed admission to Benedict College and have the opportunity to participate in an HBCU tour, college fairs and summer enrichment, as well as receive additional academic support.
The celebration will include several speakers from the district and a virtual presentation from Janeen Witty, vice president for academic affairs at Benedict College. The HBCU Step Up event will also include reflections from the program’s first cohort of 62 students who all earned four units of credit from Benedict College.

“It’s been a great first year for HBCU Step Up, a first-of-its-kind program for our African American students. Step Up is not only encouraging our students to prepare for college, but to learn more about the life-changing experience of attending an HBCU,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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