



George Biddle Kelley Education Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 14692 • Albany, NY 12212-4164
Phone: (518) 847-2180 • email: gbkfoundation@gmail.com
www.gbkfoundation.org

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CONTACT: Sanjay Mitchell
(518) 956-8195
gbkfoundation@gmail.com

Capital District Education Foundation Sponsors 50 Promising Minority Students to NACAC National College Fair in Long Island

Albany, N.Y. – October 2, 2008 – The George Biddle Kelley Education Foundation, Inc. will take nearly 50 promising college-bound minority students from the Capital Region to the National College Fair sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), on Sunday, October 5th, 2008, at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island.

Founded in 2006, the George Biddle Kelley Education Foundation hosts the annual bus tour under its “Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College,” education initiative. This program will give high school students from underrepresented Capital Region communities the opportunity to interact with officials representing more than 300 national colleges and universities at the fair. The students will also tour nearby Hofstra University.

“Most high school students of color in New York have no idea of how to get into college and the overwhelming majority have never visited a university campus before,” said Sanjay Mitchell, an admissions counselor at the University at Albany and coordinator of the trip. “Our program educates students and their parents about colleges, campus life and career options so they can make better higher education choices.”

Named in honor of Troy native and resident, George Biddle Kelley, the foundation hosts workshops for students and their parents about attending college. Since 2005, they have also taken several hundred students from across New York on trips to college fairs in the state and on campus visits. A former engineer for the State of New York, Kelley was a graduate of Cornell University, where he was also a founding member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in 1906. Kelley founded the Beta Pi Lambda Capital Region Alumni chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha in 1939. He died in 1962.

“The main purpose of the foundation is to plan, organize, and direct educational and scholarship related programs for needy students,” said foundation member Idris Abdul-Aziz, a teacher at Schenectady High School. “It also provides information, resources, advocacy, programs and services to assist in the development of strong families in at-risk communities.”

The coach bus will depart from the Madison Avenue entrance of the New York State Museum at 7:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 8:00 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$40 per student and includes lunch. Financial assistance will be provided for students in need. Participants must RSVP and have signed permission slips.

For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with the Bus Tour Chair, Sanjay Mitchell, please call 518-847-2180 or email gbkfoundation@gmail.com.