

- Leadership
- Expectations
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CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- Accountability
- Credibility
- Excellence in Execution



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Atlantic City Sending 5 Students on Free Culturally-Focused Trip to South Africa

Atlantic City, N.J. (May 31, 2023) – The City of Atlantic City is giving five Atlantic City residents currently in high school the rare opportunity to go on a free trip to South Africa. The Atlantic City Youth Services Division partnered with youth education program “A Leadership Journey” for this two-week, all expenses paid trip that will focus on social justice issues. City of Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, Sr. called a news conference this morning, to share details of the trip, followed by a meet-and-greet with the participating kids, their families and trip organizers.

Director of Atlantic City Youth Services Christina Noble and Atlantic City Youth Services Specialist Elizabeth Trigg will accompany the students on the June 2-18 trip, along with the founder of “A Leadership Journey” and former member of the Atlantic City Boys & Girls Club, Akeem Lloyd.

“My platform is clear, in Atlantic City we’re all about our youth and seniors,” says Mayor Small. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our children. My Youth Services team put this trip together very quickly, which just shows how committed we are to the youth of Atlantic City. It takes a lot of courage on the children’s part to get involved in an experience like this, and I told them to soak it all in and not take it for granted. This will change their lives as they become the future leaders of the great City of Atlantic City.”

“It’s a really culturally diverse trip and I know they’re going to grow so much from this,” says Noble. “Learning things through cultural experiences is so meaningful, it’s going to open lots of doors, and this exploration is going to lead to self-exploration and jumpstart their passions as they enter their adult lives. This is going to be a fun trip, but also an educational one.”

“The fact that the City of Atlantic City and Mayor Small instilled trust in us and through all their support behind us means a lot,” says Lloyd. “There are so many resources and opportunities in the city for young people to be a part of, and to know we can add to that is special.”

To be selected for this trip, applying students had to be an Atlantic City resident currently enrolled in grades 9-12, able to obtain a passport and were required to submit an essay explaining why they should be chosen. The Atlantic City Youth Services team anonymously reviewed the essays, then interviewed the selected students. Attending the trip will be:

- Makiyah Coppin, Sophomore at Atlantic County Institute of Technology
- William Harris, Junior at Atlantic City High School
- Melanie Victoria Hernandez-DiDomenico, Junior at Atlantic County Institute of Technology
- Evan Johnson, Junior at Atlantic City High School
- Tim Tran, Junior at Atlantic City High School

The students will deliver a presentation upon their return about what they learned on the trip.

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