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PRESS RELEASE

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Upland Unified Celebrates Culture, Community at Fifth Annual Black History Night

UPLAND – Nearly 300 students, families, staff members, and community partners gathered at Upland High School (UHS) on Feb. 12 for Upland Unified School District’s Fifth Annual Black History Night, an evening dedicated to honoring Black culture, uplifting student achievement, and strengthening community connections.

The celebration showcased the extraordinary talents of Upland Unified students through poetry, spoken word, vocal performances, and dynamic dance presentations. A live DJ energized the crowd and led an interactive dance tutorial that invited audience members of all ages to take part, creating an atmosphere of unity, joy, and shared pride.

"The power behind Black History Night allows us to celebrate our culture, which usually does not get enough recognition, and I think everyone should be able to celebrate it as one," UHS sophomore Dior Wilson said.

Throughout the evening, a special slideshow paid tribute to the District’s 204 Black honor roll students in grades 4 through 12. Each student’s name and photo were displayed prominently, recognizing their academic excellence and commitment to success.

Honor roll students received achievement certificates, commemorative wristbands, bookmarks, and pencils, along with the opportunity to take a photo that was printed and delivered the same night, ensuring families left with a lasting keepsake of the celebration.

Food trucks offering culturally inspired cuisine added to the festive spirit, providing attendees with an opportunity to gather, connect, and celebrate over a shared meal.

"We are incredibly proud of our students and the determination, resilience, and excellence they demonstrate every day," Director of Equity, Access, and Accountability Dr. Antonio Gonzalez said. "Black History Night is an opportunity to celebrate their academic accomplishments, honor the rich cultural legacy that inspires us all, and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring every student feels seen, valued, and supported."

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The evening also highlighted the District’s continued progress in student outcomes. Last year, all 66 of Upland Unified’s Black seniors graduated, achieving a 100 percent graduation rate within the African American student group, a milestone that reflects the collective efforts of students, families, educators, and the broader community.

“Now in its fifth year as a Districtwide event, Black History Night continues to serve as a powerful reminder that when schools and communities come together to celebrate culture and achievement, students thrive both academically and personally,” Superintendent Dr. Lynn Carmen Day said.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

UUSD_BlackHistory1: A collection of literary works featuring Black authors and characters was on display at the Fifth Annual Black History Night event at Upland High School on Feb. 12.

UUSD_BlackHistory2: Upland High School sophomore Dior Wilson shared the Langston Hughes poem “Mother to Son” at the District’s Fifth Annual Black History Night on Feb. 12.

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