

Access and Community Initiatives Rises to the Occasion

The primary goal of Access and Community Initiatives (ACI) is to develop, improve, and strengthen partnerships between Auburn University and the surrounding community, especially among underserved groups. So when Kevin Waters, Program Coordinator of the RISE (Raising Individual Standards of Excellence) UP Summer Academy contacted our office to ask if our staff would be available to provide an educational tour on Saturday, June 22, 2013 and the opportunity for his group to interact with current Auburn University students, we were more than willing to accommodate his request.

RISE UP summer academy is a college preparation program for low-income public school students in Montgomery, Alabama. The program targets 30 high achieving students entering their junior or senior year of high school, and engages them with rigorous college preparation work for six weeks.

Throughout the six-week program, students receive 4 hours of classroom instruction each week in the areas of ACT preparation, college essay writing, scholarship identification, financial aid, and the college application process.

In addition to classroom sessions, students will benefit from 3 full days of college tours that include visits to various colleges in the southern region including, Auburn University.



RISE UP Summer Academy students began their visit to Auburn University with an interactive information session in the Multicultural Center. During this session, Charus Campbell, Assistant Director of Greek Life and Intercultural Programs; Metara Austin, ACI Graduate Assistant and Diversity Ambassadors, Jessica Chappell and Moneisha Cunningham shared vital information about the application process, student life, their college experience and concluded with a question and answer session. Students were then treated to lunch in the student center before embarking on a tour of the beautiful Auburn University campus. Led by the Diversity Ambassadors, RISE UP Summer Academy students had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of current Auburn students and hear the history of this prestigious university. Before departing, students participated in a mini quiz bowl to review interesting facts learned during the tour and documented their Auburn Experience with a photo on the student center steps.