NEWS RELEASE

In New Orleans, All Eyes on HBCU Talent On and Off the Field

2/28/2023

Their college football programs aren't as well-known in some circles as Alabama, USC or Ohio State, but the impact that many Black football players who attended historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) made in the NFL, as well as the legacy they've left to the game and their communities, is extraordinary. Men like Doug Williams, Mel Blount, Willie Lanier, James Harrison, Jerry Rice, Michael Strahan, and Art Shell all played college football at HBCUs. In fact, there are over 100 HBCUs in the United States today -- institutions of higher learning that continue to educate many of the best and brightest college students in our country.

If you follow college – or even pro football – you've heard of some of these HBCUs: Grambling State, Florida A&M, Morgan State, Southern, Alabama A&M, North Carolina Central, the list goes on. The football programs at these schools produce elite-caliber players, and every year the HBCU Legacy Bowl showcases the best NFL draft-eligible players from these schools.

This past weekend, the HBCU Legacy Bowl was held in New Orleans and was broadcast on NFL Network. The highly anticipated game was only part of the events bringing a spotlight to The Big Easy. For two days leading up the game, some of the nation's largest employers -- more than a hundred -- were on hand to take part in the HBCU Legacy Bowl Career Fair. Presented by the NFL's New Orleans Saints, the fair provided job opportunities and career counseling for HBCU juniors and seniors. The career fair showcased the talent of HBCU students in the classroom as they embark on their careers in healthcare, retail, technology, sports, and other fields.

Signet's Chief Diversity Officer, Reggie Johnson, attended to represent the world's largest diamond jewelry retailer and provide tomorrow's leaders with a glimpse at the what's possible in the world of gems and jewelry.

"Signet's continued partnership, in the form of sponsorships and scholarships, with historically Black colleges and universities reinforces our values of acceptance and inclusiveness and allows us to be an industry leader in our diversity initiatives," he said. "We know that different perspectives, experiences and ideas are key to any company's growth, and we're honored to introduce these talented and future leaders to a host of opportunities they otherwise may not know about."

As part of Signet's Corporate Sustainability Goals (CSG), we continue to strive for a community of inclusiveness. Earmarking contributions for HBCUs and Hispanic-serving institutions is just one way we are working toward achieving this goal. Signet is also committed to increasing the number of underrepresented persons in leadership positions (Director and Vice President) by 25% by the year 2030. **Visit our website for more on Signet's CSGs** and how they align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As Signet seeks to add more gems to our talented workforce, we are proud to stand alongside those focused on

diversity and committed to offering opportunities for all.

Learn more about the **HBCU Legacy Bowl** and **Signet's commitment to diversity**.