



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2010 CIAA Tournament--
Join Bowie State Alumni, Friends for an Event to Remember**



Bowie, Md.—Many Bowie State University alumni and those from other Historically Black Institutions will travel from the Washington Metropolitan Area to the upcoming Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament. Taking place in Charlotte, South Carolina, February 22-27, 2010, the tournament is one of the largest and most profitable national annual basketball and social events.

Ticket booklets to the event are available through the University by visiting <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/96839> or calling 301-860-4301. Booklets that generally sell for \$100 have been discounted to \$50.

Bowie State basketball fans have high expectations for the Bulldogs teams during the upcoming tournament, according to **Arlene Creek, interim athletic director**. “We are excited about the success our men’s and women’s basketball teams have had this year. The women’s basketball team made the *USA Today*/ESPN Division Top 25 and ranks 5th in the Atlantic Region of the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division II, and the men’s team ranks 9th in the Atlantic Region. We expect both teams to do well at the CIAA Tournament and we want to show them our overwhelming support and appreciation.”

The basketball coaches have used the weeks leading up to the tournament to get their players mentally and physically ready. **Darrell Brooks, head women’s basketball coach**, said: “I’ve been very pleased about how the team has progressed this season. As we get closer to the tournament, we want to continue to progress as a team so that we are playing our best basketball at tournament time.”

Likewise, **Donna Polk, head women’s basketball coach**, commented, “We have used the past few weeks of divisional play to prepare us for the CIAA Tournament which is going to be very exciting. We look forward to representing Bowie State this year.”

The week-long event will include men’s and women’s basketball competitions, career, health and other informational sessions, exhibitions, and live radio broadcasts hosted by comedian Steve Harvey, and gospel singer Yolanda Adams; both celebrities host national radio morning shows. R & B groups En Vogue and the Temptations will perform on the final day of the tournament.

BSU’s alumni treat the CIAA Tournament week as a mini-vacation that is an inexpensive way to have fun and stay in touch with their college friends, according to **Darren Swain, assistant vice president for institutional advancement** at BSU. “We have a core group of BSU alumni who purchase tickets months in advance but we are reaching out to all HBCU alumni in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia who may never have experienced the CIAA Tournament.”

The CIAA Tournament is an athletic conference consisting of eleven institutions of higher education, 10 of which are HBCUs: Bowie State University, Chowan University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Livingstone College, St. Augustine's College, St. Paul's College, Shaw University, Virginia State University and Virginia Union University, all working together to set an overall standard of excellence.

About Bowie State University

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds who seek a high quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The University places special emphasis on the science, technology, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit the website at www.bowiestate.edu.