



NEWS RELEASE

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CHARLES JOHNSON FOUNDATION SENDING LOCAL STUDENTS TO 2017 ATLANTA BLACK COLLEGE EXPO FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HAWKINSVILLE, GA, Dec. 14, 2016- Carolina Panthers defensive end and captain Charles Johnson is continuing his commitment to his hometown community by sending local students to the 2017 Black College Expo in Atlanta for the fourth consecutive year. The Charles Johnson Foundation will host students from Wilcox County, Bleckley County and Hawkinsville High Schools. New this year, Johnson has also extended the invitation to 7th and 8th graders from Hawkinsville Middle School. The event will take place Saturday, February 4 at the Cobb Galleria Centre.

The foundation will cover admission costs, meals, and transportation to and from the event. Many of the students impacted by this initiative may not have the resources to attend otherwise. By covering costs and transportation, the foundation is able to expose additional students to opportunities to continue their education after high school and set their sights on college opportunities.

"I'm excited to send even more kids from my hometown community to this expo again," Johnson said. "In the past, it's been an eye-opening experience. We want to help the students learn about their options and get excited about the possibilities for the future. It's not always easy for parents to get their kids to Atlanta, and by providing transportation we're making this available to many more students."

Students should contact their school's guidance counselor as soon as possible to sign up. Spots will be filled on a first-to-register basis. The foundation urges students to only register if they are able to attend, as space is limited. The deadline to register is Monday, January 23. Juniors and seniors are required to complete an essay for the chance to win a college scholarship from the Black College Expo. Details on the scholarship application can be found [here](#) and winners will be announced on-site at the expo. Juniors and seniors must complete the essay in addition to the permission form in order for their seat to be reserved. Students in 7th-10th grades are required to complete the permission form only.

The Black College Expo is a college fair that aims to inform and excite students about college, showcasing more than 50 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as well as other educational organizations and

programs. At the fair, students can get assistance with college preparation and readiness, NCAA eligibility and recruitment opportunities, as well as gain connections to career, internship and vocational opportunities. High school seniors are encouraged to bring several copies of their transcripts as well as SAT or ACT scores to potentially gain college acceptance, receive scholarships and have application fees waived on the spot. There will also be band auditions at the expo with the opportunity to receive a scholarship.

Parents/guardians of students attending that are interested in chaperoning can visit their child's high school guidance counselor to sign up. The foundation thanks those who have volunteered in the past, as chaperones are required to make this event possible. To learn more about the Black College Expo in Atlanta, visit the event's website [here](#). To read more about the Charles Johnson Foundation and its initiatives, visit charlesjohnsonfoundation.org.

ABOUT CHARLES JOHNSON & THE CHARLES JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Charles Johnson is a defensive end for the Carolina Panthers, a native of Hawkinsville, GA, and a proud alumnus of Hawkinsville High School. After attending the University of Georgia where he starred at defensive end, Charles was drafted by the Carolina Panthers of the NFL in 2007.

Through nine professional seasons, Charles has received All-Pro recognition on the strength of 63.5 career sacks, placing him among the premier pass-rushers in the league. Charles ranks second on the Panthers' all-time sacks list. He is a four-time captain for the Panthers, including the 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016 seasons.

In 2012, Charles' passion for philanthropy and loyalty to Middle Georgia led him to launch the Charles Johnson Foundation. A non-profit organization, the Charles Johnson Foundation is dedicated to fulfilling a two-fold mission:

- Providing opportunities for under-served youth to reach their full potential through athletic, recreational, and educational programs and initiatives; and
- Providing support for single African American mothers through proven programs and initiatives.

The Charles Johnson Foundation Sports Academy and Community Weekend is the flagship annual event in Hawkinsville, GA for the Charles Johnson Foundation, combining his efforts to advance education with free sports clinics in football, basketball, tennis, dance and cheer.

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