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**National Urban League President Addresses  
New Rochelle High School Students**

*Marc Morial Encourages All to Study Their Family, Cultural Histories*

**NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (February 5, 2019)** – The president of the National Urban League (NUL) today urged an audience of New Rochelle High School students to delve into their personal and cultural histories – and to appreciate others’ stories as well.

“Each of us should know our own family history, our own cultural history,” NUL President Marc Morial told more than 150 students in the Linda E. Kelly Theater. “When you know and understand your own history, you then have a respect for other people’s histories. So I encourage you to be curious, interested, probing, delving into, yes, black history, but not just black history. We must know our own history, but we must respect and understand the contributions and the histories of others.”

Morial’s appearance was the District’s first major event of Black History Month. Morial said the annual month-long observance helps correct an imbalance by focusing on African American history, which had been dismissed for so long, he said.

“We study black history because we should study and understand *all* history,” he said.

The audience included mostly juniors and seniors from the school’s two African American Studies classes, plus students from other social studies courses. Interim Superintendent Dr. Magda Parvey attended the talk, as well as a representative of New York State Senator Shelley Mayer.

“We’re honored to welcome such a distinguished guest as Marc Morial to address our students,” Dr. Parvey said. “Mr. Morial is a leader in the fight for civil rights and equality, and we are grateful that he took the opportunity to bring us such an important message at the start of Black History Month.”

The National Urban League, established in 1910, advocates on behalf of African Americans and combats racial discrimination in the United States. Morial has served as president of the civil rights organization since 2003.

He told the students they will see a shift in the country in their lifetimes.

“On your watch, America is going to evolve into a nation where no ethnic group is in a majority,” he said. “I think that presents an exciting set of possibilities.”

Students said the talk was inspiring and thought provoking. Senior Kamahri Valcourt took to heart the message about everyone studying his or her own family and cultural history.

“In the end, it will all bring us all together,” said Valcourt, who is president of the school’s Black Culture Club and co-president of the NAACP Youth Group. “If you understand your own history, you will be more open to others.”

### **About the City School District of New Rochelle**

With nearly 11,000 students in 10 schools, the City School District of New Rochelle, through an active partnership amongst community, parents, staff and students, provides a high-quality and challenging education for every child, in a safe, nurturing environment that embraces rich diversity and drives success.

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