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For Immediate Release

From Security Guard to Doctor, Dr. Russell Ledet to Speak to HCS Students

(Humboldt, TN, May 8, 2023) – On Monday, May 8th, Humboldt City School students will have the opportunity to hear from a U.S. Navy Veteran who emerged from being a security guard in a Baton Rouge Hospital to earning his Ph.D. in molecular oncology and tumor immunology from the NYU School of Medicine. He also co-founded “The 15 White Coats”, a world-renowned organization that helps to propel underrepresented minority students into medicine.

Dr. Ledet will be journeying to Humboldt under the coordination of Dr. Gina Dieudonné to talk with students at East Elementary and Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School during special assemblies about his personal story and struggles in achieving his dreams. He will also have lunch with a small group of students that have expressed interest in a medical field of study. Later in the afternoon, there will be a special invitation-only reception for Dr. Ledet at the Opera House to meet with local educators and medical colleagues to discuss how we can better support and encourage our students to pursue medical careers.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for students of Humboldt. Our students will have the privilege to hear and talk with Dr. Ledet who has persevered to earn his status in the medical field while continuing to reach out to underrepresented young people to assist them in achieving their dreams,” stated Superintendent Dr. Janice Epperson. “We appreciate this opportunity that Dr. Gina has coordinated for us and for Dr. Ledet’s willingness to come to Humboldt to share his story.”

Students will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Ledet’s story of how he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 with his first duty station at the nation’s capital as a ceremonial guardsman and was later awarded multiple Navy Achievement Medals for his leadership. He later attended Southern University, NYU School of Medicine, Tulane School of Medicine and Freeman School of Business before choosing his residency focus.

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