

Prairie View participates in national Battle of the Bands

PRAIRIE VIEW- Prairie View A&M University, is one of 42 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) that will participate in the 2007-08 Honda Battle of the Bands Celebration Tour and Invitational Showcase. Founded in 1876, Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher learning in the state of Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees in 50 academic majors, 37 master's degrees and four doctoral degree programs through nine colleges and schools.

The Black college experience will be celebrated most spectacularly in the 2007-08 Honda Battle of the Bands Celebration Tour and Invitational Showcase. As it prepares to inaugurate its sixth year, the annual Honda Battle of the Bands program will cast a well earned national spotlight on the historic spirit, pageantry and showmanship of Black college marching bands.

For 2007-08, HBOB will feature 42 participating HBCU Marching Bands. American Honda Motor Co., Inc. will again award a total of \$142,000 in grants to the participating marching bands, including \$1,000 to each for their halftime performances at selected football games throughout the fall season. The Honda Battle of the Bands is comprised of two primary components: the Celebration Tour and the Invitational Showcase.

As part of the 2007-08 Celebration Tour, which runs through

mid-November, fans have the opportunity to get interactive by logging on to the Honda Battle of the Bands Web site to participate in the online opinion survey, nominating their favorite HBCU marching band.

By the conclusion of the Celebration Tour, the 10 bands that demonstrate the best showmanship, musicianship and fan interaction will be invited to perform in the Invitational Showcase on January 26, 2008, at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The 10 schools selected will each receive an additional \$10,000 to benefit their respective music programs and scholarship funds.

Beginning with the 2008 Invitational Showcase, HBOB has adopted a new selection process based upon feedback received from the HBCU band directors. While HBOB will still utilize the on-line opinion poll and college president selections, band directors will have increased input based upon a two-fold objective:

1. To allow the best performing bands in each conference, regardless of size or popularity, an opportunity to participate in the showcase.

2. To improve the selection process by focusing on experts (fellow conference band directors) who will have increased influence on the selection of participants.

This year, the selection process will be comprised of two categories. The first represents the same format that HBOB has followed since the program's incep-

tion with one exception: Only one band from each HBCU athletic conference and independent program will be selected for a total of five bands.

HBOB will still count the fan opinion poll (1/3), the band directors (1/3) and the college presidents (1/3) as the selection criteria for the category. The second category will represent selection by the fellow conference band directors only. Each band director allowed to vote from the conference they represent. This category will select the remaining five bands for each year.

Additionally, when a conference or independent band is selected in this category, they will not be eligible for the category the following year. They will, however, always be eligible in category one. This year's selection process will terminate on Friday, November 2, 2007, at midnight (EST). The 10 universities selected for participation in the 2007 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase will be announced on Monday, November 12, 2007.

Band directors and college presidents are not permitted to select their own schools. Honda's long-term commitment to the HBCUs was first made more than 18 years ago when it established the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, a program designed to showcase the academic gifts and prowess of HBCU students. To enter your nominee for the Invitational Showcase, visit www.HondaBattleoftheBands.com. ★

Texas Black Colleges and Universities Directory

Huston-Tillotson University
900 Chicon Street
Austin, 78702-2795
(512)505-3000
www.htu.edu

St. Philip's College
1801 Martin Luther King Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78203-2098
(210) 531-3200
www.accd.edu/spc/

Jarvis Christian College
P.O. Box 1470
Hawkins, 75765
(903)769-5700
www.jarvis.edu

Texas College
2404 N. Grand Avenue
Tyler, 75702
(903)593-8311
www.texascollege.edu

Paul Quinn College
3837 Simpson Stuart Road
Dallas, 75241
(214)376-1000
www.pqc.edu

Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Avenue
Houston, 77004
(713)527-7011
www.tsu.edu

Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 188
Prairie View, 77446
(936)261-1000
www.pvamu.edu

Wiley College
711 Wiley Avenue
Marshall, 75670
(903)927-3300
www.wileyc.edu

Southwestern Christian College
P.O. Box 10
Terrell, 75160
(214)524-3341
www.swcc.edu

Texas Southern University appoints Billy R. Owens as Interim Chief Financial Officer

HOUSTON - Billy R. Owens has joined Texas Southern University as Interim Senior Vice President for Business and Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Owens has extensive experience and background in financial turnarounds in the higher education and non-education and non-profit environments. He previously served as Vice President for Business and Fiscal Affairs at Tuskegee University and as Vice President for Finance at Grambling State University.



Billy R. Owens

While at Tuskegee, Owens implemented policies and procedures to restore integrity to the University's financial operations and increased cash flow through improved billing and collection policies. As Vice President of Finance at Grambling, he oversaw the implementation of accounting, financial and audit systems which resulted in substantial savings. Further, he was responsible for helping Grambling meet compliance with a number of audit and financial standards. "We are extremely pleased to have Owens join us at TSU. His budgeting, financial and accounting experience is ideally suited to our needs," said J. Timothy Boddie, Jr., Interim President of TSU.

Prior to these positions, Owens held key finance positions at the non-profit, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition as well as Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin and Southern Methodist University.

Owens will have primary authority over strategic financial planning, budgeting, accounting and audit functions. His background also includes extensive experience in facilities management, risk assurance, and information technology. Owens holds an MBA from Southern Methodist University and a B.S. in Accounting from Southern University. ★

New partnership to focus on juvenile consequences

HOUSTON - Four legal and law enforcement agencies are teaming up to educate youths charged with misdemeanors, as well as their parents, about the juvenile justice system. The Houston Bar Association (HBA), the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Police Department have formed the Juvenile Consequences Partnership to provide information to youths and their families on what to expect once they have entered the juvenile system in Harris County. Most of the youth are required to attend the program with their parents as part of a deferred adjudication agreement with the court.

A representative from each entity in the partnership will discuss their organization's role during the 90-minute program. An attorney will talk about representing youth in the system, a probation officer will discuss the juvenile probation process, an assistant district attorney will discuss the role on the prosecutor in the juvenile system, and a police officer will provide information on juvenile arrest and detention.

"Many young people enter the system without a clear idea of the consequences they face for committing a crime, said Tommy Proctor, president of the Houston Bar Association. "We believe that education is a key component in helping youth complete deferred adjudication, and in preventing them from committing more serious crimes that could lead to harsher consequences. It is equally important to educate their families, so they can provide crucial support."

The program is scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harris County Juvenile Justice Center, 1200 Congress. Each partner will provide a speaker for a 20 minute presentation. This first program will be held September 18, 2007. For more information call, (713)759-1133. ★

St. Philip's College welcomes new employees

SAN ANTONIO- The newest faculty and staff at St. Philip's College completed their employee orientation with a group photo session at the Watson Fine Arts Center on Martin Luther King Drive. The team's meeting began and ended under the leadership of St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "We're here to make a difference for the students and we're here to make them successful. Be a key contributor, beginning with the end in mind for everyone who encounters you," Dr. Loston told her newest hires.

"We have a mandate to go from good to great, to go to the next level at St. Philip's College. That's why we brought you here, to change things." This recent infusion of talent into the local community captures expertise from such varied areas as South Korea, New York and San Antonio.

Each freshman employee remarked on their zeal to serve through one of the nation's most vibrantly diverse community colleges during an era of transformation for the institution. St. Philip's College is a multi-campus institution of the Alamo Community Colleges, committed to meeting the educational needs of San Antonio's growing and diverse community. St. Philip's College is a Historically Black College and Hispanic Serving Institution and is the only college in the nation that carries this dual distinction. St. Philip's is among the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the nation. ★



The newest faculty and staff at St. Philip's College concluded their employee orientation with a group photo session August 21, at the Watson Fine Arts Center. The team's session was under the leadership of St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston (standing at front right). Photo by Patrick Evans

Texas College ranked 30th among best universities

TYLER - Texas College in Tyler appear in a new listing by the magazine U.S. News and World Report of top colleges and universities. The top colleges and universities report already appeared on the magazine's Web site on the Internet. Texas College, making its entry for the first time to the magazine's listing of top colleges and universities, appears in a category of unranked top baccalaureate colleges in the Western Region. Texas College has a student body of approximately 730. If is a liberal arts institution established in 1894, on North Grand Avenue in Tyler, is affiliated with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. TC offers numerous majors in business administration, political science, sociology, early childhood education, English, interdisciplinary studies, liberal studies, music, physical education, biology, computer science, mathematics and other areas. ★

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