



TSU E-News

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Texas Southern University presents Vikings COO Warren with inaugural Pioneer Award



(left to right) Texas Southern University President Austin A. Lane, Kevin Warren, Tony Wyllie. Warren was presented with TSU's first Pioneer Award at an event in Houston on February 4.

Texas Southern University honored **Kevin Warren**, the National Football League's (NFL) highest-ranking African-American executive, with its inaugural Pioneer Award on February 4th in Houston. Warren serves as chief operating officer for the Minnesota Vikings.

The Pioneer Award was conceived by **Tony Wyllie**, a Texas Southern University alumnus and senior vice president of communications for the Washington Redskins. The award highlights diversity within the NFL and encourages continued inclusive hiring practices by NFL franchises. Warren pledged to continue to his work with the franchise and do all that
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TMSL professor assists in creating national interviewing curriculum



Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) Assistant Professor **Stephanie Ledesma** has been praised for co-developing a national law school curriculum for client interviewing. Ledesma's work has met the American Bar Association's definition of experiential simulation and has been adopted by several

schools across the country.

Professor Ledesma designed a programmatic, hands-on learning approach to client interviewing with the aid and resources provided by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Her design has contributed to law students' experience in a real-time environment.

"TMSL former Dean and Professor **Dannye Holley** afforded me the opportunity to move forward with this endeavor just a little over a year ago," Ledesma said. "If not for his foresight and understanding of the direction of experiential learning at TMSL, my undertaking of this curriculum development would still be in its infancy stages. Empowering, encouraging and supporting students to understand, evaluate, analyze, and when necessary, incorporate and act upon what they have read, heard and seen to the benefit of not only their client, but their firm, and even themselves – such that they understand what professional identity means within the legal profession – is a true pillar of legal education."

Wanda Adams named 2017 HISD board president



Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education District IX Trustee and Texas Southern University alumna **Wanda Adams** has been unanimously voted as the HISD Board of Education president for 2017.

Adams, a Kashmere High School graduate, was first elected to the school board in 2013 after serving three two-year terms as Houston's City Councilmember for District D. Adams' commitment as a board trustee is

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Michael Strahan, TSU alumnus, Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee, television personality, author, clothing designer and pitchman, was honored February 4 before Super Bowl LI as part of the National Football League's tribute to Hall of Fame players who attended HBCUs. [Click here](#) to view the segment.

TSU Student organization seeks to empower fellow students



The Texas Southern University chapter of National Society of Collegiate Scholars (TSUNSCS), a national honors organization that recognizes and elevates high achievers, has been reinstated on campus.

Low membership forced TSUNSCS to take a hiatus in 2013, but a new set of officers have revived TSUNSCS. The group is committed to influencing student scholarship, leadership, and service.

"TSUNSCS chapter is a very important organization on campus because it highlights the scholastic aptitude of TSU students," said **Goodluck Ijezie-Desbois**, chapter president. "Our goal is to uplift our fellow classmates and give them opportunities to be engaged on campus and within our greater community."

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Exhibit honoring Barbara Jordan on display at State Capitol



Students from Lone Star College at University Park in Houston, visit Barbara Jordan's exhibit in the State Capitol.

In honor of Black History Month, an exhibit honoring **Barbara Jordan**, a civil rights activist, congresswoman and TSU alumnus, opened at the Texas State Capitol on February 6. The exhibit chronicles her life and work.

The exhibit, which will be open until Feb. 10, includes an interactive timeline with information about the phases of Jordan's life. Among these phases is her tenure as the first black woman elected to the Texas Senate, and her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1972.

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to continue incorporating strong literacy programs, strengthening parent and community engagement, and decreasing the number of low-performing schools in District IX.

Adams earned her bachelor's degree in Public Affairs at TSU while starring on the women's basketball team. She earned her master's degree in Public Administration, also at TSU. She is a professor of political science at Texas Southern and hosts a public-affairs program – *A Closer Look* on KTSU Radio.

Adams was recognized for her achievements at halftime of the TSU-Prairie View men's basketball game on February 4.

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he can do to advance people of color and women within the NFL.

"I am keenly aware of the sacrifices others made before me to give me the opportunity to work and excel in the National Football League, and I am going to do all that I can to possibly open up doors for others," Warren said.

"Kevin is deserving of this award," Wylie said. "His promotion as a National Football League team executive is a testament to his talents and work ethic that he has displayed throughout his 19-year NFL career. The fact that my alma mater, Texas Southern University, is benefitting from Kevin's success makes this award extra special."

TSU President **Austin Lane** said, "We are grateful that Tony Wylie, a proud Texas Southern University alumnus, was instrumental in bringing this award to Texas Southern. On behalf of the TSU family I would like to congratulate Kevin for the excellent example he has set for our students to model themselves after. We know that our students will benefit greatly from this annual award."

TSU presented the Pioneer Award as part of festivities surrounding Super Bowl LI. Proceeds from the event will benefit the University's Graduation Success scholarship program. The Pioneer Award will be given each year at site of the Super Bowl. Next year's game will be held in Minnesota.

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TSUNSCS officers (from left) are Makenna Pouengue, VP of Events; Nicole Sampy, VP of Community Service; Eniola Bankole, Treasurer; Goodluck Ijezie-Desbois, President; Javonna Smith, VP of Social Media; Darryl Gardner, Executive VP; Kylor Caraway, Secretary/Star Status Coordinator; Alexandra Taylor, Member Engagement Manager.

TSUNSCS is hosting Integrity Week this week (Feb. 6 – 10) to raise awareness about ethical behavior with fellow students. Chapter members are capturing students on video to find out where they stand on academics, wellness, career goals, character and social integrity. The clips will be shared to foster discussion and action.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) provides career and graduate-school connections, leadership and service opportunities, and awards a million dollars in scholarships annually. TSUNSCS was founded in 2006. For more information on TSUNSCS visit their [Facebook page](#).

University Calendar 2017

TSU Events for January 2017 - April 2017 at a Glance

Monday, January 30 - Sunday, April 30, 2017

Gridiron Glory: "The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame"

University Museum, 10:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m. M-S; 10:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sun.

[Click Here for tickets](#)

Monday, February 6 - Friday, February 10

JHJ Charisma Camp - For Men Only

JHJ Room 128, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Register with JHJ Career Office, Suite 330

Friday, February 10, 2017

Greek Informational Risk Management Workshop

The Cafe, 7:00 p.m.

TSU I.d required

Summer Youth Camp Parents Night Out

Recreation Center, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

For more information contact Jeremy Lewis at 713-313-6897

Monday, February 13 - Friday, February 17, 2017

JHJ School of Business Week

JHJ Auditorium

Register at www.myinterfase.com/tsu/student

For more information email placementservices@tsu.edu

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Faculty Tea Party

Robert Terry James Library, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information contact Donna Freeman at 713-313-1077