



Hello TSU family!

The TigerLand Newsletter is designed to keep you informed about news and events occurring on the university campus. There are several news items that highlight the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni as well as announcements of upcoming events and important dates about programs that may be of interest to you. I want to remind you to continue to keep in touch and share your ideas and concerns for improving the campus and its operations via the "Ask the President" button on the website.

SAVE THE DATE

Click Here for TSU Campus Calendar

November 23 - November 25, 2017
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 25, 2017
Labor Day Classic
BBVA Compass Stadium, 6:00 p.m.

November 29 - December 2, 2017
2017 HBCU-ARC Conference

December 8, 2017
Kirk Whalum
"A Gospel According to Jazz"
Sawyer Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

December 16, 2017
Winter Commencement Exercises
H&PE Arena, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 22, 2018
College of Education Gala
The Junior League of Houston
1811 Birch Oaks, 6:00 p.m.
Event will recognize outstanding Educators

Friday, February 23 - Sunday, February 25, 2018
TSU Family Weekend
For more information, contact Kavaris Sims at 713-313-7078 or e-mail kavaris.sims@tsu.edu

Saturday, April 28, 2018
A Maroon and Gray Affair
Marriott Marquis Hotel

President Lane leads panel on the importance of HBCUs in Texas



(l-r) Paul Quinn College President Michael Sorrell, Texas Tribune Managing Editor Corrie MacLaggan, Huston-Tillotson President and CEO Colette Pierce Burnette, State Representative James White, and TSU President Austin Lane

President **Austin Lane** participated in the 2017 Texas Tribune Festival September 23 in Austin. Dr. Lane was part of the Public and Higher Education committee and the panel *What HBCUs Mean for Texas*. The panel's consensus was that HBCUs strengthen communities and lift up students and families by enabling educational attainment and opportunity.

TSU president elected to council's Executive Committee

TSU President **Austin Lane** has been elected to serve on the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) Executive Committee for fiscal year 2018. Dr. Lane will serve through October 2018. "The Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors is a great organization which helps shape policy decisions in the state," President Lane said. "As a member of the organization, I am proud to stand with the other university presidents and chancellors to address the critical issues regarding higher education."

CPUPC provides a forum for discussing the mutual needs, concerns and issues facing public universities in Texas and encourages inter-institutional cooperation in meeting the higher education needs of the state. Executive Committee members provide guidance and comments regarding CPUPC activities, which may include responding to proposed meeting topics and agendas, leading meeting discussions, commenting on draft reports and providing input for proposed activities of the Council.

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TSU bolsters academic leadership

Texas Southern University has strengthened its academic standing with new hires in several key positions.

Kendall T. Harris, Ph.D., P.E., has been selected as the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Harris will begin employment with TSU on January 1, 2018. He is the former dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Harris has held faculty appointments throughout his tenure as an educator. His external research efforts have garnered more than \$10 million in research and program funding. His research interests are in the fields of heat transfer, electronic package cooling and energy conservation, and he has numerous publications and conference presentations in these areas. Dr. Harris received his master's and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Mississippi and holds bachelor degrees from the University of Kansas. He graduated from the Naval Aviation Officer School as a U.S. Naval Officer and Aviator.

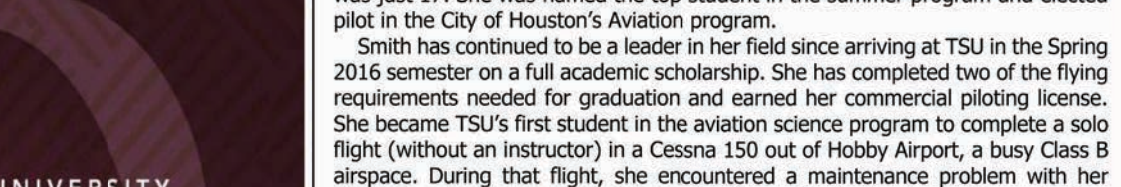
Gary Bledsoe has been selected to serve as interim dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Attorney Bledsoe, a former Texas Southern University Regent, began in his new role November 1. Attorney Bledsoe specializes in public interest law, employment and civil rights law. He is president of the Texas NAACP and has held that position since being elected in 1991. He has a longstanding relationship with the NAACP as a member of its National Board since 2003 and is chair of the National Criminal Justice Committee of the NAACP. He earned his bachelor's and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. Professor **Marcia Johnson** will serve as Special Assistant to the Dean and will assist acting Dean Bledsoe in the transition. Professor Johnson has been serving TMSL as co-founder and director of the new Urban Research and Resource Center, an interdisciplinary collaboration with TSU's School of Public Affairs, and was a former interim dean of the law school. Professor **Cassandra Hill** will assist both Bledsoe and Professor Johnson in the administration of the law school.

Dianne Jameson-Pollard, Ph.D. was named dean of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. She began her new role on October 16. Dr. Jameson Pollard served as the Chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts at TSU for over 10 years. Under her leadership, the Department of Fine Arts received multiple Department of the Year honors at TSU recognizing it for performance, scholarship, research, and community outreach. In her tenured service to the University, she has served as Director of Theatre, Education Coordinator for the Deluxe Theater, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. She is an award-winning university stage director who has directed over fifty productions from Greek and Shakespeare to Contemporary Theatre, Musicals and Children's Theatre. She earned the BA degree in Speech and Drama from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, an MA degree in Communications-Theatre from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, an MFA degree in Directing from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and an Ed. D degree in Counseling from Texas Southern University.

Maurice Odine, Ph.D. is the new dean of the School of Communication as of October 16. Dr. Odine comes to TSU from Florida A&M University where he served as professor and associate dean of the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. Dr. Odine is a prolific researcher and has published 21 sole-author refereed articles in various recognized academic journals. He earned his B.A. in Communications from The State University of New York at Geneseo, an M.A. in Radio-Television from Ball State University and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is fluent in French, Krio, Douala and Bakundli languages.

Alumni chapters receive updates from President Lane

TSU President **Austin Lane** took the opportunity to meet with the Texas Southern University National Alumni Association Austin and Atlanta Alumni Chapters during their chapter meeting. He shared his top priorities with alumni and upcoming initiatives with alumni including the 90th Anniversary celebration events, homecoming activities, the TSU license plates initiative, the Brick Campaign, and the 2018 Maroon & Gray Affair scheduled for April 28, 2018. Dr. Lane was the presenter for alumnus **Tony Wylie** who was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in Atlanta.



Top: Austin Chapter
Bottom: Atlanta Chapter

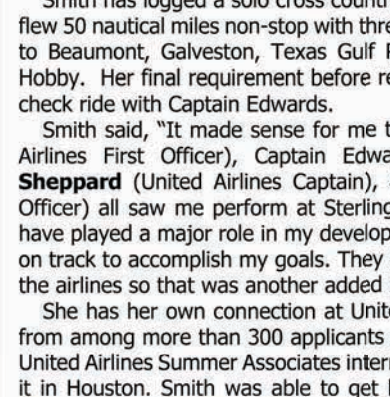
TSU senior named to S.H.A.P.E. board, receives LSAT award



Anthony Collier, a senior political science major, made history as the youngest person ever to be appointed to the S.H.A.P.E. (Self-Help for African People through Education) Community Center, Inc.'s executive board of directors. Collier was enrolled in the highly competitive and award-winning University of Houston Law Center's (UHLCL) Pre-Law Pipeline Program and received the LSAT Diagnostic Score Award.

S.H.A.P.E., founded in 1969, provides programs and activities that serve as tools to strengthen families and communities. The UHLCL Pre-Law Pipeline program is an extensive nine-week course designed to increase the diversity of law school applicants by providing law school preparatory resources, internships, professional development sessions, LSAT preparation and law school classes – for undergraduate students who are first generation, low income, or members of groups underrepresented in the legal profession.

Aviation major reaches new heights



Tachiona Smith is a junior aviation science major dedicated to becoming a professional pilot and captain of a major airline company. Smith, a Houston native, became fascinated with planes at an early age when she and her grandmother would spend time next to Hobby Airport and watch the airplanes take off and land.

"I've always had a sense of adventure," she said. "Growing up I wanted to be a veterinarian or a police officer or a firefighter – something exciting."

It was a chance encounter at Sterling Aviation High School with teacher **Marvin Smith** that brought back those beloved childhood memories at Hobby Airport.

"When I got to Sterling and after I saw the airplane posters on the walls I decided to skip class to look into the private pilot course. Mr. Smith told me about a scholarship opportunity with the Black Pilots of America to fly for free for two weeks. That's when I knew that becoming a pilot would be my career path."

Smith has not been deterred from her goal since that time, including being the first student in Sterling's flight program's class of 15 to take a solo flight when she was just 17. She was named the top student in the summer program and elected pilot in the City of Houston's Aviation program.

Smith has continued to be a leader in her field since arriving at TSU in the Spring 2016 semester on a full academic scholarship. She has completed two of the flying requirements needed for graduation and earned the right to solo flight license. She became TSU's first student in the aviation science program to complete a solo flight (without an instructor) in a Cessna 150 out of Hobby Airport, a busy Class B airspace. During that flight, she encountered a maintenance problem with her airspeed indicator, but analyzed the situation with steady alarmpath and poise, and took pictures of the indicator to document the issue.

"This was a major accomplishment for Tachiona because she had to fly with busy traffic and communicate on the same radio with pilots from all the major airlines," said Captain **Roscoe Edwards**, director of flight operations at TSU. "Tough! (Smith's) calm sign is one of our outstanding students, not only academically, but also with her ability to master the skills required to fly an airplane."

Smith has logged a solo cross country flight in the University's Cessna 172. She flew 50 nautical miles non-stop with three full stop take-offs and landings, traveling to Beaumont, Galveston, Texas Gulf Regional Airport in Angleton and back to Hobby. Her final requirement before receiving her private pilot's license will be a check ride with Captain Edwards.

Smith said, "It made sense for me to come to TSU. **Matthew Julien** (Envoy Airlines First Officer), Captain **Edwards** (United Airlines – retired), **Corey Sheppard** (United Airlines Captain), and Mr. Smith (Express Jet Airlines First Officer) all saw me perform at Sterling and know what I'm capable of. They all have played a major role in my development and they are making sure that I am on track to accomplish my goals. They are all TSU alumni with connections within the airlines so that was another added bonus for me to choose TSU."

She has her own connection at United Airlines. This summer, she was chosen from among more than 300 applicants as one of 20 students to participate in the United Airlines Summer Associates internship program, the first time United offered it in Houston. Smith was able to get hands-on experience in all of the airline's departments. She was singled out among the interns to star in a promotional video for the airline to share her journey in aviation and had the opportunity to meet and network with United CEO Oscar Munoz. She was also featured in a KPRC-TV news story covering the airline's internship program.

Smith is on track to becoming an airline pilot, but still has a long way to go. Pilots have to log 5,000 to 6,000 hours in an aircraft before they are hired. She is planning to become a certified flight instructor for TSU when she graduates and obtains all of the necessary licenses to build her required flight hours and help other students along the way. Smith plans to work for a regional airline before making the transition into jets and other large aircraft, then will work her way up to being a first officer and assuming the left seat as the captain for a major airline.

"Oh, no matter what it takes, this is it. Being a professional pilot is what I want to do," she said.

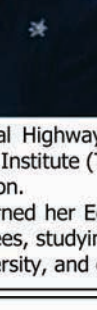
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE

MAROON & GRAY Affair

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018
MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

Texas Transportation Hall of Honor to induct former TSU professor



Dr. Naomi W. Ledé, founder of TSU's Center for Transportation Training and Research (CTTR) will be inducted into the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor. The event will be held at Texas A&M University on November 20. Dr. Ledé, who retired from TSU in 1998 as a distinguished professor emeritus, will be the first African American inducted into the Hall. She will be recognized with a permanent plaque at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the Texas A&M University Research Park in College Station, Texas.

Dr. Ledé founded CTTR in 1983 with a grant and developed the center into the most respected transportation research and education program at an HBCU. She developed the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) aimed at introducing junior high and high school students from the minority community to a career in transportation. NSTI received numerous national Federal Highway Administration awards. Ledé, as a senior research scientist at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), received the inaugural Sharon D. Benis Award for Innovative Leadership in Transportation.

Dr. Ledé earned her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston. She holds two M.A. degrees, studying urban affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington and Crockett at Texas Southern University, and earned an undergraduate degree at Mary Allen College in Crockett, Texas.

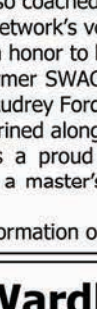
TSU Athletics released from NCAA probation

The National Collegiate Association (NCAA) notified TSU Athletics on October 9 that it ended the department's five-year probationary period.

"The NCAA sanctions and penalties levied against us were devastating for the entire program," said Dr. **Charles McClelland**, TSU's vice president of Intercollegiate Athletics. "The football team took the brunt of the penalties, but that is all behind us with our program being fully restored to membership status. Our goal is to continue rebuilding while competing for championships and guiding our student-athletes to graduation."

Dr. **McClelland** and **Glenn Lewis**, chairman of TSU's Board of Regents, discussed the department's success and its plans with the *Houston Chronicle*. Click here to read article.

Former TSU athlete and coach inducted into SWAC Hall of Fame



Dr. Dwalah Fisher was selected as one of the nine class members to be inducted into the 2017 Southeastern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Hall of Fame. The enshrinement ceremony will take place on Nov. 30 at The Westin Galleria in Houston.

Fisher, who serves as the assistant director and senior woman administrator for TSU Athletics, was a top volleyball player at Texas Southern. She earned three All-SWAC nods and four All-Tournament honors for the Lady Tigers and her team won three conference titles. She was a member of the Lady Tigers basketball team before tearing her ACL in her freshman year. She took the helm of the Lady Tigers in 1994, guiding the team to the SWAC volleyball championship, and coaches the 2010. Fisher also coached the women's basketball team in 1996. She serves as the color analyst for the SWAC Digital Network's volleyball broadcasts.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by the conference with this honor and to go in with this class of outstanding former SWAC athletes and coaches," Fisher said. "I am most proud that I am joining my college coach Audrey Ford who was TSU's first inductee into the SWAC Hall of Fame. He recently passed and to be enshrined alongside him means so much to me."

Dr. Fisher is a proud three-time TSU graduate, earning her undergraduate degree in business administration, a master's degree in health education and a doctoral degree in education curriculum instruction.

For more information on the ceremony and a complete list of inductees, visit www.swac.org.

RTF program grad is Emmy® Award winner



Justin Avery, '13, a School of Communications Radio, Television and Film alumns Emmy® Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Avery works as an associate producer on ESPN's *College Gameday*. The popular football broadcast won the award for Outstanding Studio Show – Weeklv.

Dr. Wardlaw receives top museum award

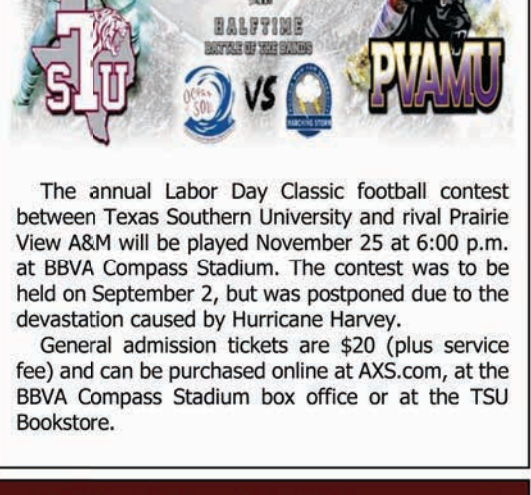


Dr. Alvina Wardlaw, director and curator of TSU's University Museum and art history professor, was presented with the Dr. John E. Fleming Award at the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) annual conference on August 2. The Fleming Award is the highest honor presented by AAAM and recognizes museum professionals who have contributed outstanding expertise and exceptional dedication to African and African American-focused museums through a career spanning twenty years or more.

Dr. Wardlaw has mentored countless students of color to pursue careers in the museum field ranging from curatorial to conservation. She organized over 75 exhibitions on John and African-American art, including retrospective of African Biggers and Kermit Oliver, during her 22-year tenure as curator of modern and contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Art, Houston. She organized contemporary African art, creative designs of the quilt makers Gaele's Band, Alabama, and the self-taught genius of Thornton Dial at MFA-Houston.

Dr. Wardlaw is the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin. She serves on the board of the Orange Show Foundation and the Emancipation Park Conservancy in Houston, and is an honorary trustee of Museum of Fine Art, Houston. She serves on the Scholarship Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and is a trustee of Wellesley College.

Annual football classic rescheduled to November 25



The annual Labor Day Classic football contest between Texas Southern University and rival Prairie View A&M will be played November 25 at 6:00 p.m. at BBVA Compass Stadium. The contest was to be held on September 2, but was postponed due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey.

General admission tickets are \$20 (plus service fee) and can be purchased online at AXS.com, at the BBVA Compass Stadium box office or at the TSU Bookstore.

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Dr. Ledé earned her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston. She holds two M.A. degrees, studying urban affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington and Crockett at Texas Southern University, and earned an undergraduate degree at Mary Allen College in Crockett, Texas.

Doctoral student receives legacy scholarship



Paralee Shivers, a doctoral student in Educational Administration, received the prestigious Julie Cunningham Award Legacy Scholarship from July 18, 2017.

The \$7,500 scholarship is presented to a student pursuing a doctoral degree in a field that will develop leaders and administrators for organizations and institutions throughout the country. The recipient must exemplify Cunningham's traits and qualities, including strong leadership, commitment to community service and diversity, and a commitment to COVID.

Shivers is a TSU alumna and past-visiting professor in the School of Communication. She is a full-time professor at Houston Community College.

Doctoral student interns at Houston FBI headquarters



Devonte White, a doctoral student in Administration of Justice, completed a summer internship with the Houston FBI Honors Graduate Internship Program. The internship allowed White to work with special agent teams, including an assignment to the Human Trafficking/Civil Rights Squad.

White learned at the FBI Teen Academy about networking, making the right decisions with peers and how to succeed in college. He is developing an FBI mentoring program for low-income Houston youth. He received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University and a master's in criminal justice from Florida A&M University.

Doctoral student earns NASA fellowship



Rosalind Goss, an environmental toxicology doctoral student, was one of six selected for a NASA Fellowship through the NASA Aeronautics Scholarships and Advanced STEM Training and Research Fellowship (AS & STAR) program. The award will enable Goss to perform research related to NASA's mission priorities. She is a U.S. Army veteran and TSU alumna, earning a B.S. in biology in 2013 and a M.S. in environmental toxicology in 2015. Dr. **Bobby Wilson** and **Honglu Wu** serve as Goss' mentors.

Tony Wylie inducted into NBCA Hall of Fame



Tony Wylie, '93, a School of Communications Journalism graduate, was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame September 29 in a ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia. Wylie is senior vice president of Communications for the Washington Redskins. In 1998, Wylie became youngest public relations director in the National Football League.

He is a five-time winner of the Pete Rozelle Award for the Best Public Relations Staff, a league record, and is the only NFL executive to win this award with three different teams – the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, Tennessee Titans and Houston Texans. Each year, graduates of Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) are inducted into the Hall of Fame for major contributions in their respective fields.

90th anniversary with Homecoming celebration

Texas Southern University's campus was abuzz for several days as students, alumni, faculty and alumni community partners gathered for a homecoming celebration – *Tiger Dynasty: The Reign Continues* – from October 7-14. This year's week-long calendar of events featured a coronation ceremony, welcome reception, block party, golf tournament, parade, comedy and fashion shows, concerts, the Homecoming football game and trailing here at Texas Southern University," said TSU President **Austin Lane**. "The prof is in the eagerness of our alumni, community partners, faculty and staff to come together with our current student body to celebrate the importance of this great institution and its 90-year history."

Homecoming Week opened on October 7 with the coronation ceremony of Miss TSU **Tramauni Brock**, Mister TSU **Chad Zeno** and their Royal Court. Homecoming worship services were held at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church followed by a spirited gospel concert on campus featuring **Tas'a Page-Lokhtar**, and performances by DA Davis and J'von Gray. Student events included a pep rally, the third-annual midnight breakfast, an open mic poetry night, and a fashion show featuring 70 student models and 11 fashion designers.

"The 90th anniversary of our profound institution was the perfect combination of celebration and reflection," said Tramauni Brock, Miss TSU 2017. "Being able to commune with alumni, current students and administration helps to strengthen our ties together and express how thankful we are for our HBCU. Homecoming was a amazing experience."

Alumni activities began with a homecoming vs. undergrads game night in the Student Center and golfers tee-off at the 16th annual Tiger Paw Golf Classic at Hermann Park. Esther Franklin Nelson, '92, a 1946 graduate of the Houston College for Negroes (which became Texas Southern University in 1947), returned to her alma mater to take part in the welcome reception on campus.

Texas Southern University means tradition and being back on the Yard just feels like home," said Johnetta "Kittie" Long-Afede (TSU '89). "This was the best Homecoming and a great way to celebrate 90 years."

Alumni, students, faculty and staff converged on the University Plaza for Yard Fest. The campus event featured games, specialty vendors and food trucks. Rap artists Lil'Boosie and Lucci headlined a standing-room-only show for students in Sawyer Auditorium, all on October 13.

Homecoming culminated on October 14 with the coronation ceremony which featured Houston March Sylvester Turner, local state officials, marching bands, decorated cars, walking and dance units. The festive atmosphere continued at the campus-wide Tailgate Party, featuring rapper Big Dady Kane. The Tigers football team posted an impressive effort against Alabama State, but fell short, 23-16 in a hard-fought match. TSU men's and women's top athletic teams – basketball, softball, baseball and golf – were presented conference championship rings during halftime.

SASS helps to boost students' academic skills

TSU's Student Academic Support Services (SASS) promotes student development on an academic, intellectual and social level to improve overall retention, progression and graduation rates. **Charlene James** is the department's interim executive director.

Students can meet with supportive and experienced advisors, and participate in activities designed to strengthen their academic skill set and prepare for careers. Services include academic workshops, with individual and group tutoring in biology, chemistry, English, math, and physics. SASS Tutorial Centers are located in the Fairchild Building and University Towers Learning Center.

More than 1,400 freshmen students receive services each week and SASS provided school supplies to over 77 students who attended the Classroom Confidential Workshop at the start of the semester. Other students were connected to tutorial services to prepare for mid-term exams and utilized a range of academic programming this semester.

For more information, contact Dr. James at 713-313-7640 or Charlene.James@tsu.edu.

TSU announces plans for inaugural Family Weekend

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE PRESENTS

Family WEEKEND

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.TSU.EDU
KAVARIS SIMS AT 713.313.7078 OR EMAIL KAVARIS.SIMS@TSU.EDU

TSU WWW.TSU.EDU

Texas Links chapter opens HBCU initiative at TSU



TSU President **Austin Lane** served as the guest speaker for the Links, Incorporated-Missouri City Chapter as they launched their "Links Support HBCUs" initiative. The event was held at Lane's address outlined the University's recent successes, including increased student enrollment and funding, his top five priorities and the value of a TSU education. **Deloris Smith**, Missouri City Links founder, and Links member **Jarmese Morris** spoke about the role TSU played in their professional development.

TSU commemorated 90th anniversary with Homecoming celebration

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