



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS
www.tougaloo.edu Fax 601.978.1368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 27, 2006

CONTACT: Danny Lee Jones, Director of External Affairs, 601.977.7870
djones@tougaloo.edu or dannyleejones@earthlink.net OR

Detrice W. Johnson, Media Relations Associate
601.977.7871, djohnson@tougaloo.edu

TOUGALOO COLLEGE STUDENT WINNER IN ALLTEL'S "WORDS OF WISDOM" ESSAY CONTEST

Tougaloo, MS - Tougaloo College sophomore biology major, Ashley T. Jackson from Senatobia, MS, was one of ten finalists in the Alltel "Words of Wisdom" essay contest. In addition to a \$4,000.00 scholarship, Ms. Jackson will attend a reception and press conference with Dr. Maya Angelou in Little Rock, AK at the Clinton Library.

In conjunction with Black History Month, Alltel and Dr. Angelou sponsored the Words of Wisdom Scholarship Program, which asked students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the country, "What words of wisdom will you pass on to those who come after you?"

"Young people have a fresh perspective and can express their insights in ways that the next generation will appreciate and respond to," said Regina Woziwodzki, director of multicultural marketing for Alltel. "We are proud to provide them a forum through the Alltel Words of Wisdom Scholarship Program as well as the once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting Dr. Maya Angelou."

In addition to the scholarship, winners received the trip to Little Rock to meet Dr. Angelou. Participants were judged based on their ability to adhere to the theme as well as strike an emotional chord and exude passion through writing. .

"I am probably most excited about meeting Maya Angelou," says Ms. Jackson, the daughter of James Harris.

Founded in 1869, Tougaloo College is a private, historically black, coeducational four-year liberal arts institution, located on the northern edge of Jackson, Mississippi. Known nationally as "The Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi," the College is led by its first female president, Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan. The 13th president of Tougaloo College, Dr. Hogan is a 1973 graduate of the College and a native Mississippian. Under her visionary leadership, the College boasts a student retention rate of 88%, well above the national average, and ranks as one the top five historically black colleges and universities whose graduates earn their PhDs in the sciences. More than half (66%) of its graduates enter graduate and professional schools immediately after graduation. Today, Tougaloo College is the leading producer of African American health professionals, including over 40% of the physicians and dentists, practicing in the state of Mississippi. It has produced more than one-third of the state's African American attorneys and educators, including teachers, principals, and school superintendents. Its alumni include Congressman Bennie Thompson, Judges Tomie Green, Denise Sweet Owens and Constance Slaughter-Harvey; scholars and educators Dr. Jayne Sargent, Dr. Jerry Ward, Dr. Oscar Rodgers, Dr. Joffre Whisenton, Dr. Rosentene B. Purnell, and Dr. Joyce Ladner; Attorneys Reuben Anderson, Edward Blackmon, Isaac K. Byrd, Robert Gibbs, Precious Martin and Dennis Sweet; physicians Dr. Aaron Shirley, Dr. Malcolm Taylor, Dr. Myrna Alexander Nickens and Dr. Alphonso Willis; and Dr. Walter J. Turnbull, founder of the Boys Choir of Harlem.

