



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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TOUGALOO COLLEGE ADDS NEW FACE TO ATHLETIC STAFF

Tougaloo, MS – Lee Payton, a former high school coach, will join the Tougaloo College Athletic Department as the Assistant Women's Basketball Coach. Payton brings 29 years of coaching experience to the Lady Bulldogs' program. His duties with the team will include on the floor coaching, scouting and strength and conditioning. Over the years, Payton has coached men's and women's basketball, volleyball and softball. He began his coaching and teaching career in 1977 at Senatobia High School in Senatobia, MS. He has also held coaching positions at Wingfield High School, Clarksdale High School, Brandon High School and most recently Crystal Springs High School. In 2001, Payton led Crystal Springs High School to the class 4A State Tournament. Under his guidance, The Tigers won the Crystal Springs Invitational Tournament (2001), Brookhaven Invitational (2001), and the South State 4A Championship (2001). Some of his coaching achievements while at Wingfield included: leading the varsity boys team to their first-ever final four appearance in the Holiday Tournament (1997); helping the ninth grade boys to win their first city championship (1997); and leading the varsity girls volleyball team to the first round of the state play-offs for two consecutive years (1995 and 1996).

Throughout his coaching career, Payton has received numerous honors. He was nominated to "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" in 1998 and 1986, and to the National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals in 2004 and 2006. He was Middle School Principal of the Year (2004-2005). He also received the Coach of the Year Bronze Award while working for Clarksdale City Schools and the Coach of the Year Award in 2001 while working at Crystal Springs High School. He currently holds memberships with the American Association of Health and Physical Education and the Mississippi Association of Coaches.

Payton is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he received his B.A. in Education. He went on to earn his M.S. in Education Administration and Supervision from Jackson State University. He also played collegiate basketball at Tougaloo College. He is married to Dr. Rosie Payton and they have two boys, Paxton, a sophomore at Alcorn State University and Lee, who is in the Air Force stationed in Montana.

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 and 13th president, Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan. Dr. Hogan is a 1973 graduate of the College and a native Mississippian. Under her visionary leadership, the College has increased its enrollment by 12% and boasts a student retention rate of 78%. Tougaloo College ranks among the top 50 U.S. institutions whose graduates earn PhDs in science and engineering disciplines and among the top 15 historically black colleges and universities in the graduation of females with undergraduate degrees in the physical sciences. The College has produced more graduates who have completed their PhD degrees through the UNCF-Mellon Doctoral Fellowship Program than any other institution in the nation. Listed as one of the Best Colleges in the Southeast by Princeton Review (2007 edition) and the only Mississippi institution ranked among the top 20 liberal arts institutions in the nation by The Washington Monthly, 66% of its graduates enter professional and graduate schools immediately after graduation. 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. Among its graduates are more than one-third of the

state's African American attorneys and educators including teachers, principals, school superintendents, college/university faculty and administrators.