



## TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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### **Senator Thad Cochran to Deliver Commencement Address at Tougaloo College**

*Tougaloo, MS.* – Tougaloo College will hold its 137<sup>th</sup> Commencement exercise on Sunday, May 21, 2006 with Senator Thad Cochran delivering the address. In 1978, Cochran became the first Republican in over 100 years to win a statewide election in Mississippi. Senator Cochran has written legislation supporting education programs such as teacher training, vocational education, libraries and educational television. He served as a member of the National Education Goals Panel and numerous university based research projects have been funded with his assistance, including the Jackson Heart Study, a collaborative project of Jackson State University, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Tougaloo College.

During the ceremony, honorary degrees will be presented to Cochran, alumnus H. T. Drake '52, philanthropist Sidney Frank (posthumously) and historian and former professor of history at Tougaloo College, John Dittmer, Ph.D. Dolphus Weary, Ph.D., President of Mission Mississippi, will receive the Meritorious Leadership Award.

The commencement program will begin at 10 a.m. on the campus green (weather permitting) followed by a reception. The rain site is Kroger Gymnasium in the Owens Health, Wellness and Human Resources building.

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*Founded in 1869, Tougaloo College is a private, historically black, coeducational, four-year liberal arts institution, located in Madison County, 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 78% 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.*