



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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Tougaloo College Students Head to Jena, LA in Support of the Jena Six

Tougaloo, Miss. — A group of 70 Tougaloo College students leaves tomorrow morning for Jena, LA to show their support for the remaining member of the Jena Six, still held in custody. Greg Johnson, president of the Student Government Association at Tougaloo, organized the students who are marching. “It is important that we show our support of this young man. This incident is something that would better have been handled in the school system, and if not there, certainly in the juvenile court system.”

Other students on the campus agreed with Johnson’s assessment. “It is incumbent upon us, as young people, to pick up the torch of civil rights from those who have preceded us,” said Waikinya Clanton, a senior from Canton, MS. “We must demonstrate that we understand the sacrifices that they made and that we are willing to do the same, if necessary.”

Students who were unable to make the trip, as well as faculty, staff and administrators, were showing solidarity by wearing black on Thursday. “It is our way of showing that we stand with our students and with those kids in Jena,” said Danny Lee Jones, Director of External Relations for the College.

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 68%.

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 The Princeton Review (2007 and 2008 editions) and the only Mississippi institution ranked among the top 20 liberal arts institutions in the nation by Washington Monthly (2007), 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.