



## TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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### **Tougaloo College to Sponsor First Miss Tougaloo, Mississippi Scholarship Pageant**

Tougaloo College will sponsor the first Miss Tougaloo, Mississippi pageant on February 25, 2006. The pageant, open to young ladies between the ages of 17 and 24, residing, working or attending school in the 39174 zip code, will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Holmes Hall on the Tougaloo College campus. Tougaloo College Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Edwina Harris Hamby, says, "We are delighted to be able to host this event for the Tougaloo community. For quite some time, the College has been interested in becoming involved with the Miss Mississippi organization in some capacity and this year, the timing was just right. We are very excited to be hosting this community pageant."

Deadline for application is January 20, 2006 and the application packet may be downloaded from the Tougaloo College website ([www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)). Packets are also available for pick up in the Tougaloo College Office of Institutional Advancement (601-977-7871, for information). The winner and three alternates will each receive scholarships and gifts.

The Miss Tougaloo, Mississippi local pageant is an official preliminary pageant to the Miss Mississippi and Miss American pageants. The Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations have made available more than 45 million dollars in cash and scholarship assistance.

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*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 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Among its eminent alumni are physicians Lionel Fraser, Galen Vincent Henderson, Deborah Hyde, Myrna Alexander Nickens, Carl Reddix, Jessie Sherrod, Aaron Shirley (recipient of the prestigious McArthur Award) and Alphonso Willis; attorneys Reuben Anderson, Edward Blackmon, Issac K. Byrd, Precious Martin, Dennis Sweet and Constance Slaughter-Harvey; Congressman Bennie G. Thompson; businessmen D. Oscar Groomes, Jerry Nickens and Roosevelt Turner; Judges Tomie Green and Denise Sweet Owens; scholars, Drs. RoSusan Bartee, Joyce Ladner, Rosentene B. Purnell, Oscar Allan Rogers, Jr., Jayne Sargent, Edgar Smith, Jerry Ward and Joffre Whisenton; and Dr. Walter J. Turnbull, Founder of the Boys Choir of Harlem.*