



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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St. Joseph High School Junior a Semifinalist in YES Competition

Tougaloo, MS - Ms. Joyee Ester, a participant in the Undergraduate Training Center of the Jackson Heart Study (SLAM I and II), was selected as a Regional Semifinalist in the 2005-2006 Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Competition. The title of her project was "An Investigation of the Health Practices of High School Students." Approximately 700 students competed in YES, and as a result of her placement as a regional semifinalist; she was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship. Joyee, a junior at St. Joseph's High School, is coming back to SLAM III this summer. She intends to become a physician. For more information on the YES Competition, visit their website at <http://www.collegeboard.com/yes/>.

The Undergraduate Training Center

Tougaloo College, the site of the Undergraduate Training Center, has a long history of preparing undergraduate students for advanced studies in the health professions. In the late 1960s, the first African-American students to attend the University of Mississippi's Medical School were Tougaloo graduates, and a large proportion of the African-American physicians, dentists, and other health professionals now practicing in Mississippi are former Tougaloo students. The preparation of students for health-related graduate studies has been strengthened by the development of an array of programs. The JHS Undergraduate Training Center seeks to leverage these programs to increase the number of African Americans entering public health and related fields by providing added educational and research opportunities across a range of academic levels. Its activities include the Science Language Arts and Mathematics (SLAM) program with emphasis in epidemiology for high school students, the JHS Scholars Program for undergraduate students, and a postgraduate course in epidemiology for more advanced students and health professionals.

High School Outreach Programs SLAM I, II, and III

These three four-week summer workshops emphasize language, quantitative, and science skills and expose students to issues of public health and epidemiology. A team of college and high school teachers develops challenging sessions that link mathematics and natural science with articulate expression to cultivate critical thinking. Curriculum coordinators in each of the three skill areas oversee instruction. Additional input is gained from JHS Scholars who serve as tutors and from the high school students themselves. The SLAM workshops are advertised by distributing fliers to all area high schools, by notices on the Jackson Public School website, and by visits to most high schools by the Undergraduate Training Center staff. SLAM workshops I, II, and III are attended by 9th, 10th, and 11th graders, respectively. Placement in SLAM II or SLAM III is contingent on completion of specific high school science and math classes as well as the prior SLAM workshop level. A student may attend all three SLAM workshops during the high school years.

Jackson Heart Study (JHS)

The JHS is designed to address healthcare disparities affecting African Americans by combining a large observational study of common diseases with a program of community health activism and academic infrastructure building. It is a collaboration involving two distinguished HBCUs and Mississippi's only academic medical center and is supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.

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.