



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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Higher Education after Katrina

\$1.1M of Sidney Frank Gift Will Fund ‘Recovery Semester’ Scholarships

With the endorsement of philanthropist Sidney E. Frank, Brown University will use \$1.1 million of Frank’s \$5-million hurricane relief gift to establish “recovery semester” scholarships next semester at Dillard University and Xavier University in New Orleans and Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss. The scholarship will help students resume or continue their studies and will help provide the schools with sufficient numbers of students to begin the return to normal operations.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Businessman and philanthropist Sidney E. Frank has endorsed Brown University’s plan to provide a total of \$1.1 million in “recovery semester” scholarships to students at three schools that were heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The scholarship programs are the largest distribution made to date from a \$5-million hurricane relief fund Frank established at Brown in October.

Brown President Ruth J. Simmons announced the Sidney Frank Renewal Scholarships – for Dillard University and Xavier University of Louisiana, both in New Orleans, and **Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.** – today and informed the presidents of those schools.

“It would be hard to overstate the difficulties colleges face as they attempt to restart academic operations after such a calamity,” Simmons said. “In many cases, families of students are also recovering from the storm and cannot provide even minimal support for a child at 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 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 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. Its alumni include Congressman Bennie Thompson, Judges Tomie Green, Denise Sweet Owens and Constance Slaughter-Harvey; scholars and educators Dr. Jayne Sargent, Dr. Jerry Ward, Dr. Oscar Rodgers, Dr. Joffre Whisenton, Dr. Rosentene B. Purnell, and Dr. Joyce Ladner; Attorneys Reuben Anderson, Edward Blackmon, Isaac K. Byrd, Robert Gibbs, Precious Martin and Dennis Sweet; physicians Dr. Aaron Shirley, Dr. Malcolm Taylor, Dr. Myrna Alexander Nickens and Dr. Alphonso Willis; and Dr. Walter J. Turnbull, founder of the Boys Choir of Harlem.

“The Sidney Frank Renewal Scholarships will solve two problems,” Simmons continued. “They will give students the incentive and financial assistance they need to continue their studies, and they will provide colleges with the students they need to begin the long journey back to normal operations.”

“We are so grateful to Brown University, and Mr. Frank in particular, for the generosity demonstrated by this award to Tougaloo College,” says President Beverly W. Hogan. We have so many students who were affected by the hurricane and to be able to say to them with confidence that we can help them stay in school is a wonderful feeling and a tremendous relief.”

For more than a century, historically black colleges and universities – HBCU’s – have produced more black scientists, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, linguists, educators and other highly trained professionals than any other institutions in the country. Dillard, Xavier and Tougaloo offered high-quality, affordable education to many students from disadvantaged backgrounds who will need access to those institutions if they are to complete their educations. Dillard, the most heavily damaged of the three, faces rebuilding costs estimated at more than \$350 million.

“I know how important education is and how great a difference it can make in an individual’s prospects for life,” said Frank, a member of the Brown Class of 1942. “Continuity is tremendously important. I am very happy to know that more than 300 young people will be able to continue their studies next semester through the Sidney Frank Renewal Scholarships Program.”

Although terms of the scholarships will vary slightly at the three institutions, students could receive up to \$5,000 or \$5,250 for the winter semester (designated as the “recovery semester”) if they:

- were enrolled at the institution for the fall 2005 semester;
- demonstrate commitment to pursue and complete undergraduate degrees in any field offered by the institution in which they are enrolled;
- are permanent residents of a FEMA-designated county affected by Hurricane Katrina;
- meet the federally established criteria for financial need or can otherwise document Katrina’s impact on their family income and homes; and
- can satisfactorily demonstrate, through transcripts or other documents, their academic abilities and accomplishments to the relevant institution’s admissions office.

There will be up to 200 Sidney Frank Scholars at Dillard, 85 at Xavier, and 30 at Tougaloo. An expedited application process will be established for the spring 2006 application, which must be completed by applicants online by Jan. 3, 2006. A limited number of applications may be

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considered after that date from students who seek spring 2006 enrollment at the temporary Dillard site or at Xavier's partially restored campus in New Orleans. Officials from each institution's admissions and financial aid offices will review applications, select recipients, and report on the use of designated funds.

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