



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 Cleburne Street – Houston, TX 77004
(713) 313-4205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2009

CONTACT EVA PICKENS or Angela Anderson
(713) 313-4205 or (713)-313-7865

TSU Staff Attends Emergency Management Institute Workshop



From left to right: Ronald Keys, Reference Librarian – RJT Terry Library; Dr. Obidike Kamau, Director of Libraries; Charles X. White, Charity Productions and Dr. Robert Ford, Associate Provost of Research.

Texas Southern University representatives recently attended an Emergency Management Institute (EMI) workshop in Emmitsburg, MD. The participants included Dr. Robert Ford, Interim Chair of Chemistry, Dr. Franklin Jones, Chair of Political Science, Ronald Keys, Reference Librarian – RJT Library and Charles X White, Charity Productions, Emergency Management Consultant. The workshop represented the first ever Emergency Management Planning, Preparedness, Training and Education Workshop for Colleges and Universities hosted by the EMI, in partnership with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHI-HBCUs).

Approximately 40 HBCU executives attended, with a highlight visit from the outgoing Under Secretary David Paulson who provided closing remarks. The two and a half-day course for HBCU presidents or provosts, chancellors or senior deans was designed to provide an introduction to emergency management, a basic overview of EMI's higher education program and an opportunity to hear from some of the leading professionals in the field of emergency management. The agenda included an introduction to emergency

management, presentations on careers in emergency management, DHS and FEMA funding opportunities for colleges and universities, potential area of course and program development and a tabletop exercise focusing on the university and college participation in preparing for their own disasters and partnering with the community as part of their emergency management plan. Additionally, these institutions were made aware of the program and operational assets at the FEMA-led Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

The Office of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, the workshop organizer, suggested that funding will be made available to 4-5 HBCUs to underwrite new program development. The White recognizes that here is a need to produce more EM/HS professionals and to build community capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disaster and acts of terrorism. Only two HBCUs have academic programs in the EM/HS disciplines and considering the number of students HBCUs enroll, there is a need to prepare more young people to enter these high paying professions. TSU currently offers several courses in EM/HS, and has a desire to assist the government in bringing underrepresented minorities into EM/HS fields.

The TSU delegation returned with an increased knowledge about EM/HS for operations and for academic program development. At the invitation of COO Walker, members of the delegation met with Chief of Police Byars; Campus Services and Operations Executive Director Lambert, and Police Captain Green to explore academic/operational collaboration on campus and in the community. The expanded knowledge base positioned TSU to host an EM Focus Group on campus with participants from Harris County Board of Education (Superintendent and EM Director), Sheriff Department, Houston City Health Department, HUD Federal District Office Director, Civic Club Leaders, and students. TSU is now poised to become a leading university in EM/HS and the delegation proposes to integrate our new knowledge with the evolving TSU National Transportation Security Research Center of Excellence.

Currently Charity Productions is partnering with the TSU Urban Learning Center in the James Terry Library, under the directorship of Dr. Obidike Kamau to implement a community emergency training initiative under a grant from the Brown Foundation. Classes for the community will be provided by Charity Productions starting in March 2009. For more details contact 713-292-3436.

###