Texas Southern University Invests in America’s STEM Future

$31 Million Spearman Technology Building Opens

With the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Leonard H.O. Spearman Technology Building, Texas Southern University’s Board of Regents, administrators and faculty officially launched a $31 million investment in the University’s current and future STEM students. The 107,791-square-foot gem features the latest in technology for instruction and research, and will help to offset the inadequacy of STEM education for African American and Hispanic students. See Technology Building page 2

Crowns Premiers This Weekend Kandi Eastman to Serve as Honorary Chair

Crowns, the national musical stage play produced by Regina Taylor, premiers at Texas Southern University’s Sawyer Auditorium Friday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee showing Saturday, March 1 at 2:30 p.m. Community organizations are planning to show up in full force.

Award-winning veteran radio personality, Kandi Eastman will serve as honorary chairperson and emcee. To date, Kandi has received considerable recognition and has earned numerous honors and awards for her contributions in the radio industry and for her efforts in improving and See Eastman on page 4

Texas Southern Calendar 2014

Monday, February 10, 2014 - Friday, February 28, 2014

“Yesterday’s Journey: A Tribute to the Heroes of the Negro Leagues” Exhibit
Robert J. Terry Library Second Floor, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
For more information contact Nona Honeycutt at 713-313-7122

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Black History Month Lecture Featuring Jacoul Patterson, NAACP Climate Change Leader
School of Public Affairs Walter J. McCoy Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
For more information contact LaRence Snowden at 713-313-6844

Friday, February 28, 2014

H.A.T.S. and T.I.E.S. Present National Stage Play “CROWNS” Sawyer Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
For ticketing information call 713-313-7970 or visit www.tsu.edu

For additional information contact Dr. Kimberly Lofton 713-313-7208; or Linda Gardiner 713-313-4245

VOTE NOW!

Limit one vote per personal device (owned by the voter), per day during the Voting Period

Vote Today! Vote Tomorrow! Vote Every Day
Visit www.retool yourschool.com to cast your vote.
Help increase your school’s chances to receive up to $50,000 in campus improvements.
Beginning now, visitors to the RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL website are able to review the list of participating schools and submit a vote for TSU.
Voting will take place now through April 14, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. EST.
One-on-One with Mercadi Crawford

Through a myriad of strategies, methods, and resources, TSU’s Office of Career Services provides graduate and undergraduate students with the valuable tools and necessary skills needed for their ultimate career growth and development. The “Career Spotlight” series was implemented to champion TSU students who utilized these tools to assist them with reaching their ultimate career goals. Crawford goes one-on-one with Dr. Antoinette Roberson:

1. What is your title and responsibility with Skillpoint Alliance?
   I am the Robotics Coordinator at Skillpoint Alliance where my main functions are program and event coordination, public relations, and advocacy for STEM programming in minority and low-income populations.

2. How did you prepare for the interview with Skillpoint Alliance?
   I remembered the helpful pointers received from the mock interviews I participated in at TSU’s Office of Career Services. I also went online to the career services website and reviewed the sample interview questions.

3. What are the benefits of working for a company like Skillpoint Alliance?
   Skillpoint Alliance plays a major role in driving the Central Texas economy by offering opportunities for underserved populations to fill much-needed jobs, preparing the workforce for today’s technology-focused world and using project-based learning to ensure that high-tech workforce exists for the growing technology sector. I love working for an organization that is well-known for its hard work and dedication to its core values and mission to facilitate STEM education to underserved populations. When you work with a company that understands the importance of building human capital, you are assured that they are not only building up the clients they serve, but their employees as well.

4. What do you feel is the most significant skill/qualification an employee should have?
   The most significant skill/qualification an employee should have is the ability to take criticism and learn from it. No one begins a job knowing everything, so being open and willing to learn and grow is key!

5. What advice do you have for students who are pursuing career opportunities with Fortune 100 – 500 companies?
   Be ready to work hard and earn your spot. Nothing is given to you. A lot of us graduate and think we are entitled to the high paying job, but in all honesty we must start from the bottom and work our way up. Don’t be afraid to work hard and don’t think you are too good to do any task.

6. Have you had many personal challenges on your career journey?
   I think my biggest personal challenge was following my heart and not my mind when deciding to move from Houston to Austin to intern with Senator Rodney Ellis. I always knew where I wanted to go in life, but when I was ready to take that leap of faith those closest to me tried to deter me from following my dreams and desires. Needless to say, I followed my heart and am so happy that I did. My internship led me to my position with Skillpoint Alliance. I now have a great career and a bright future ahead of me. Only you can live your life! Believe in what you want to do and do it!

7. How important was the Career Center in helping you develop your career plan?
   The Career Center played a major part in my career planning and development. The “Career Spotlight” series was implemented to champion TSU students who utilized these tools to assist them with reaching their ultimate career goals. Crawford goes one-on-one with Dr. Antoinette Roberson:

8. Where do you see yourself in five years?
   In five years, I will be the Community Outreach Director for a major company continuing to advocate for underserved populations.
Abstracts Now Accepted for Research Week 2014

The annual Research Week Program at Texas Southern University will take place on March 31 - April 4, 2014. Research Week provides an avenue for promoting national and local awareness of the exciting research and outreach activities on the campus of TSU. Activities for the week will include visiting scientist, faculty, research staff and student oral and poster presentations, plenary sessions, panel discussions, university research and outreach center exhibits, and a culminating awards program/ luncheon. TSU faculty, staff and students who are actively involved in research are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations.

The abstract must be formatted with the title, authors and authors’ affiliations at the top, 250 words or less, single spaced, and size 12 font. All interested research faculty, staff and students should submit the attached registration form and personal photo to Caspa Njekeh, project coordinator, at Caspanf@tsu.edu on or before Monday, March 10, 2014. Meritorious abstracts will be selected to be presented at the oral and poster session during Research Week. Abstract acceptance notices and further instructions will be sent by March 17, 2014. Interested individuals should contact the Office of Research with any questions or concerns regarding abstract submissions.

TSU Captured 15 Medals at the SWAC Indoor Championship

Texas Southern won 15 medals during the 2014 Southwestern Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships. The Lady Tigers took 9 medals and finished second overall with 86 points. The Tigers men's team captured 6 medals and finished fifth overall with 72 points.

TSU Ladies Bowling Takes Second Place in SWAC East Round-Up

The Texas Southern Lady Tigers bowling team wrapped up competition at the SWAC East Round-Up on Sunday finishing in second place. Jelea Maryland helped lead the charge for TSU over the three-day event. Texas Southern finished with 15 wins and 9 losses. Brianna LeForbes finished with the 3rd highest average (194.6) for both East and West SWAC Round Up participants. The Lady Tigers will now prepare for the SWAC Championships as league opponents will meet to compete and determine the 2014 SWAC Bowling Champions.
Eastman...continues from page 1

inspiring the Houston community. She has received such recognition from the likes of the City of Houston’s Mayor, the U.S. Congresswoman Representative of Texas and through features in such magazines as Essence and Today’s Black Woman.

“I am passionate about education and the education of our youth,” Eastman said. “I am thrilled to serve as honorary chair of this exciting event that I am sure will entertain and raise awareness and much need scholarship funds for Texas Southern University students.”

Tickets for Crowns are on sale now in Hannah Hall room 210 or online at www.tsu.edu. Prices are $50 for VIP seating and parking, $35 general admission and $20 student tickets. For more information, contact Kendrick Callis at 713-313-7933 or Marcele Brooks at 713-313-7970.