



# TSU E-News Now.

YOUR WEEKLY TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE  
FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS – (713) 313-4205  
May 16-22, 2016 1 of 3

## Dr. Austin Lane named sole finalist for 12th president of Texas Southern



**Dr. Austin A. Lane** has been named the sole finalist to become the 12<sup>th</sup> president of Texas Southern University (TSU) by its Board of Regents. Lane plans to assume leadership of Texas Southern on or about June 7, 2016, after a Board vote. He replaces Dr. **John M. Rudley**, who has served as president since 2008.

**Derrick Mitchell**, chair of Texas Southern’s Board of Regents, said that Lane “embodies the skills necessary to position the University as a destination institution for those seeking an innovative learning process through a stellar curriculum.”

“The Board of Regents engaged in a dedicated and thorough search of outstanding candidates and Dr. Lane was clearly the right man at the perfect time in Texas Southern’s existence,” Mitchell said. “We look forward to receiving the benefit of his strong and progressive leadership to move TSU to the next level in higher education.”

*See Lane on page 2*

## Verizon Kicks Off STEM Partnership with Texas Southern University



*Pictured from left, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Verizon South Central Market President Krista Bourne, TSU Board Chairman Derrick Mitchell, TSU Vice President University Advancement Eva Pickens and TSU President Dr. John Rudly.*

Verizon and Texas Southern University have announced a partnership focused on exposing middle-school minority boys across Houston to coding, application development, 3D printing, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs and related career opportunities.

The *Verizon Minority Male Makers Program at Texas Southern University* is a first-of-its-kind, two-year program designed to introduce young male students to the skills that will lead to career opportunities.

“There are many programs across the country that focus on introducing girls to career opportunities in STEM fields,” said **Krista Bourne**, President, South Central Market, Verizon. “We want our middle school boys to have the same access to learning about technology. We want to reach them at a young age so they can become the technology leaders of tomorrow.”

This is Texas Southern’s first year of participation in the Verizon Minority Male Makers program. TSU plans to mentor 200 middle school boys in the summer program that begins June 6. The program will consist of four one-week sessions where boys will get hands-on experience with 3D printing, coding and app development.

*See STEM on page 2*

## Texas Southern awards 1,074 degrees at its Spring Commencement



*Reverend Cosby delivered the Spring 2016 Commencement Address.*

Texas Southern University awarded 1,074 degrees in a joyous, standing-room-only Spring Commencement ceremony on May 14. The commencement speaker was Reverend Dr. **Marcus D. Cosby**, senior pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.

TSU graduates, many with elaborately decorated caps, engaged in the solemnity of the moment, but also basked in the joy of accepting their degrees. Family members carried pom-poms, gigantic photo cutouts of their graduates, and a range of pre-printed and handwritten signs.

Valedictorian **LaMonde Howard** graduated with a 3.96 GPA and a degree in Speech Communication.

*See Grads on page 3*



These 8 young men graduated from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. All were in leadership roles, excelled in mock trial, moot court and/or graduated with honors. From left are, **Treshaun Davon Meredith, Christopher Daniel Godine, Omoniyi Richard Olayiwola, Dominique Darnell Calhoun, Conrad William John, Eric A. Durojaiye, Anthony Garrie Brown, and Akeem Rashad Ayinde**. This has received over 2.2 million impressions.

## TSU News

The **deadline** to submit news or information for **TSU E-News** is Thursday’s at noon for the following week’s edition. Submissions may be sent to calliskd@tsu.edu or pickensek@tsu.edu.

For any questions or comments, call Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205.

## Lane...continued from page 1

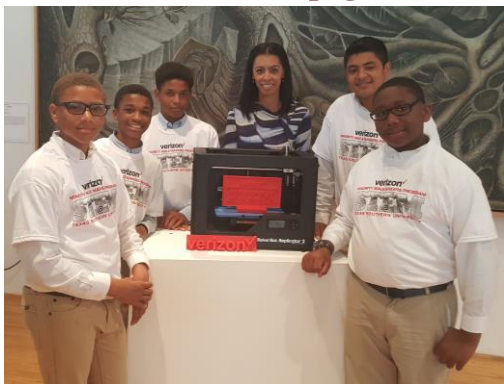
Dr. Lane said, "I want to extend thanks to Regent Mitchell and the entire board for giving me the opportunity to serve Texas Southern University. I believe that we are positioned to take TSU to new heights."

Dr. Lane said recruitment and enrollment are among his top priorities. He shared a 30-, 60- and 90-day plan with the board that addressed a detailed enrollment strategy.

Dr. Lane was managing seven campuses in the Lone Star system, with the smallest location educating 10,000 students. His plan for TSU includes strengthening student recruitment and enrollment, and focusing on retaining students through a four-year graduation plan. Another major priority is keeping TSU strong and independent, and maintaining its stature as a premier HBCU. Dr. Lane plans to maintain his passion for student academic productivity and growth, and wants to produce graduates who will be prepared for the global workplace at the point of graduation.

The board named Dr. Rudley as president emeritus and said he will serve as an adviser as long as Dr. Lane agrees.

## STEM...continued from page 1



Pictured are middle school boys from Houston's KIPP Academy with Verizon South Central Market President Krista Bourne.

Several middle-school students from KIPP Spirit College Prep were present for the announcement, along with city dignitaries, Houston ISD officials, and TSU deans and professors.

TSU President Dr. **John M. Rudley** said that Texas Southern University is already a standard-bearer for STEM curricula.

"This program, in partnership with Verizon, will widen TSU's reach by bringing young black boys to our campus, making it clear that a college education and a better life is within their reach," President Rudley said. "We hope that this initiative will encourage them to pursue higher education, and hopefully, with a degree from Texas Southern."

Houston Mayor **Sylvester Turner** commended Verizon and TSU for providing an opportunity for young males.

"I am elated that this program is here in our city," Mayor Turner said. "Thank you TSU and Verizon for preparing these young men for the future by expanding their minds and letting them know that if you believe it, you can achieve it."

Registration is underway for the Verizon Minority Male Makers Program @ Texas Southern University. Applications are available online at [www.tsu.edu](http://www.tsu.edu) or by calling (713) 313-7603. The deadline to apply is May 26, 2016.

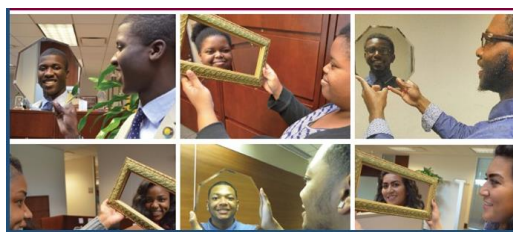
**Verizon Minority Male Makers Program @ Texas Southern University**

Four, One (1) Week Sessions

Session Dates (June 6-10, June 13-17, June 20-24, June 27-July 1)

Eight (8) Hours a Day (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

## Annual Business School banquet recognizes top students, faculty



The Jesse H. Jones School of Business (JHJ) hosted its 36th annual Awards Banquet May 6, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – River Oaks. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of JHJ faculty and students and to

look forward to future achievements.

The theme for the evening was "*Recognizing the Past...Looking Forward to Our Future*". Inspired by the #TakeBackTxSU student movement, JHJ administration decided to increase involvement from the students in order for their voices to be heard. Students led the program from start to finish, including **Jordan Roberts** (Accounting), who side by side with **Khambrel Marshall** of KPRC TV served as the master of ceremony. Mr. JHJ **Aaron Dallas** (Marketing), led the invocation, followed by greetings from American Marketing Association JHJ Chapter president, **Alisha White** (Marketing). Alums were well represented and sent greetings from the JHJ School Chapter President, **Verdis Wilson**. The Occasion was delivered by **Nattiya Turner** (Finance) and set the tone for the evening using mirrors as the instrument to reflect on past achievements, replicate the impact of those achievements, and envision the future. With the room elegantly decorated and adorned with mirrors, attendees were inspired to let the image in the mirror break through employment barriers, achieve their goals and visualize greatness! Keynote speaker, Dr. **Terence Fontaine**, Executive Vice President & Chief Innovation Officer the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Alum, Professor and Business Advisory Council member) delivered an address fit for the occasion, "Black to the Future", encouraging the audience to stand on the shoulders of leaders that have advanced us and to impact the statistics that are crippling our future.

During the program, new inductees of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society were recognized along with other organizations and scholarship recipients. Dr. **Richard Pitre** was acknowledged as a legend in accounting education, recently honored by the Houston CPA Society. Faculty Choice Awards went to: **Eniola Bankole** (Accounting), **Ludim Alvarado** (Finance), **Derrick Smallwood** (Finance), **Kennedi Walker** (Management), **Keldrin Sowell** – (MMIS), **Toi Jackson** (Marketing), and **Alisha White** (Marketing). Outstanding Graduate Awards went to, **Mara Qutub** (MBA), **Madhu Singh** (MMIS), and **Arun Thomas** (EMBA). Faculty Awards for outstanding contributions went to: **Carlton Perkins** (Teaching), **Chu-Sheng Tai** (Research) and **Delonia Cooley** (Service).

## Houston Technology Center CEO enlightens JHJ crowd



*Dommonic Nelson, Founder of Food Garage, Dr. Rochelle Parks-Yancy, Walter Ulrich, CEO of HTC*

On May 3, **Walter Ulrich**, CEO of Houston Technology Center, was welcomed and spoke to a packed house of TSU Jesse H. Jones School of Business students, faculty, alumni, and supporters. The event was coordinated by the Graduate Student Association advisor, Dr. **Rochelle Parks-Yancy**.

The Houston Technology Center is the largest technology Business Incubator and Accelerator in Texas and a partner of the JHJ School. The topic was "Where Technology and Entrepreneurship Meet", and Ulrich's presentation addressed STEM fields and Entrepreneurship. He truly imbued the spirit and actions of a stellar business leader and entrepreneur and entertained a number of questions from students afterwards.

The event was a tremendous networking opportunity for students, staff, and faculty and JHJ alumni. All major fields of study and professions were in attendance, and, everyone benefitted from attending his presentation.

## TSU E-News NOW Credits:

Andrew McCray-Media Writer/Graphics; Earlie Hudnall-University Photographer; Kendrick Callis-Communications Specialist; Rodney Bush Marketing/Communications; Tiffany Asberry-Administrative Assistant; Eva Pickens-AVP of Communications

## Tigers Track and Field wins 2016 SWAC Outdoor Title

The Texas Southern Tigers won the Southwestern Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships making a clean sweep of the SWAC's 2016 Track and Field Championships after winning the Indoor Title earlier this season. For head coach Clyde Duncan and his Flying Tigers Track and Field team it also marked the programs third title in two seasons. Duncan was named Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year, an honor he's received for the third time in two seasons. Travis Sanders prevailed in the men's high jump, as he cleared 2.14m in the event. Jawalyn Brooks earned the victory in the pole vault with a clearance of 4.80m. Cassius King passed 4.25m to earn third. D'Andre Lewis ran a 3:58.91 in the 1500m run to win the gold. Texas Southern swept the men's triple jump, with Tevin Kimble (15.09m) winning the event, Harvey Kendall Jr. finishing second with a leap of 14.94m, and Ian Williams Jr. (14.87m) coming in third. Darius Birden rounded out the scoring finishing third (47.24) in the 400m dash.



As a team Texas Southern scored 150.5 points, 44 points ahead of second place Jackson State.

**Drayton Rolle, Travis Sanders, Tevin Kimble, D'Andre Lewis, and Jawalyn Brooks** were named All-SWAC First Team while **Terrell Perry, and Harvey Kendall Jr.** were named All-SWAC Second Team.

## Graduation...continued from page 1

Salutatorian **Alan Pho**, who speaks four languages, graduated with a 3.94 GPA and a degree in Biology.

The TSU Presidential Medal was awarded to Rep. **Helen Giddings** (D-DeSoto), the first woman of color to be named to the National Foundation of Women Legislators, who secured a total of \$3.7 million in funding for TSU. TSU President Dr. **John Rudley** said he was grateful to Giddings for mining her legislative relationships to help TSU and announced that a scholarship program will be designated in her name.

Giddings urged the students to stand up for injustice and move society forward.

"When you reach the place where people will listen to you, you no longer have the luxury of just speaking for yourself," she said.

Other dignitaries present included U.S. Congressman **Al Green** and U.S. Congresswoman **Sheila Jackson Lee**, and TSU Regents **Derrick Mitchell, Wesley Terrell, Marilyn Rose, Samuel Bryant, Sarah Monty-Armoni** and **Glenn Lewis**. Student Regent **Dominique Calhoun** graduated magna cum laude with a juris doctorate degree from TSU's Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

President Rudley, who is stepping down from his post, received a medal from Regent Lewis and an American flag from Rep. Jackson Lee for his eight years of service to the university.

Rev. Cosby exhorted the assembly to understand the "perks and perils of perseverance, perspective, privilege and priority."

"It's time to go to another level," Rev. Cosby said, directing his remarks to the graduating class. "A mind stretched to a new idea never returns to its original shape."

He urged them to watch out for pride, arrogance and pretention while remembering to help someone else.

"It can't just be about yourself," Cosby said. "Go back to your community...it becomes your responsibility to get rid of racism, classism and sexism."

The ceremony included 456 students who are the first in their families to earn a college degree, representing 46% of the graduating class. There were 98 students representing 27 countries, including 49 from Saudi Arabia and 17 from Nigeria, and 76 veterans and veterans' dependents.

The youngest graduate was 20 years old and the oldest was 82.



*Shown above are TSU Alumni and Pre-Alumni members who volunteered to help with the pre-commencement activities. At right is a collage of TSU Spring 2016 graduates.*



**Texas Southern Congratulates its 2016 Spring Class**