29th Black College Dance Exchange
LAUREN ANDERSON, HONOREE

Texas Southern University will honor Lauren Anderson, Houston Ballet's longtime star and the company's first African American principal dancer, on Saturday, April 10th at 8 p.m., in the Sterling Student Life Center, third floor. This event will culminate a three-day dance conference. For more information, see upcoming events schedule at www.tsu.edu

Native Houstonian Lauren Anderson danced with Houston Ballet from 1983 to 2006, performing leading roles in all the great classical ballets, appearing across the world to critical acclaim, and in the process, becoming one of Houston Ballet's most beloved stars.
She trained exclusively at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy from the age of seven. She joined Houston Ballet in 1983 and in 1990 became the first African-American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet – and one of the few African-American ballerinas at the head of a major ballet company anywhere in the world.

Ms. Anderson danced leading roles in most of the classics. She created the title role in Ben Stevenson's Cleopatra, and her performance as Cleopatra received accolades from international critics.

In January 2007, Ms. Anderson assumed her new role of Artistic Outreach Associate in Houston Ballet’s education department where she teaches ballet classes at Houston Ballet’s Ben Stevenson Academy, conducts master classes at area schools, and lectures to students on dance and her historic career as one of America’s most distinguished African-American ballerinas. Ms. Anderson also serves as Artist-in-Residence in Theatre/Dance at Texas Southern University.

The 29th Black College Dance Exchange begins its celebration on the campus of Texas Southern University on Thursday, April 8 at 8 a.m. with registration and a campus tour for participating students. A spirited and colorful opening ceremony begins at 12 noon on the TSU plaza; followed by Urban Soul Master Classes at 2:15 p.m. A Hip Hop Jam Session is scheduled for 4 p.m., and a professional concert is on tap for 7:30 p.m.

Friday is jam-packed with classes throughout the day. A must-see Student Collegiate Dance Concert is set for 8 p.m. Friday Dance classes include; Beginner, Advanced and Intermediate Ballet, Liturgical and Contemporary Ballet; African South, West, Bollywood, World Dance and African West. After lunch dance classes will feature; Hip Hop, Breaking and Popping.

Master classes on Saturday will blow you away. First Allyne D. Gartrell with the Black Dallas Dance Theatre will lead warm-up techniques; Lauren Anderson will teach master classes. Classes offered include; Contemporary, Modern, Partnering, Liturgical, Jazz unk, Street Funk, Jazz and Jazz/Tap. At 7 p.m. Urban Souls will perform at a professional concert in Sawyer Auditorium, center campus. Lauren Anderson will be honored at 8 p.m., Sterling Student Center. Student tickets for all events are $5, $10 for adults and off-campus. Master classes are $10 for each class. For additional information call 713-313-7931. Visit online for additional information www.tsu.edu, look for upcoming events.
Texas Southern University was founded in 1926 and became a state institution in 1947. Texas Southern possesses an impressive array of undergraduate and graduate programs, a diverse faculty, more than 80 student organizations, and an alumni network comprised of educators, entrepreneurs, public servants, lawyers, pilots, artists, and more, many of whom are change agents on the local, national and international stage. Nestled upon a sprawling 150-acre campus, Texas Southern has served as a cornerstone for developing the greatest potential in leaders from various socioeconomic, cultural, and racial backgrounds. Texas Southern is located in the heart of the city, giving its students and faculty easy access to the Museum District, neighboring educational institutions, the Texas Medical Center, downtown Houston, two major airports and all of the city's major freeways. More than 9,487 students, along with nearly 1,500 faculty and staff comprise the University's community making it one of the nation's largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). For more information, visit www.tsu.edu.