Texas Southern University Band Selected to Participate in 2009 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase

Standing from left to right Marbre D. Hunter (office manager), Darryl M. Singleton (Asst. Director), Richard Lee (head band director), Dr. John M. Rudley (TSU President), Derrick Webber (Urban Sports Entertainment representing Honda) Clarence K. Gibson (Asst. Director) and Edwin Rose (Asst. Director). Kneeling left to right Jeremy Franklin, Dexter Burton, and Tristan Johnson (Drum Majors) exhibit their TSU pride during a photo session in the President’s Office.

Texas Southern University’s Band, the “Ocean of Soul” has won $20,000 and will travel to Atlanta, GA to participate in the 2009 Invitational Showcase, the Annual Honda Battle of the Bands. The showcase is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Ten top Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands will take to the field to showcase their style, procession and creativity. The bands were chosen by a combination of online voting by fans, and a selection process involving HBCU band directors and university presidents.

Dr. John Rudley, TSU President, received the award from American Honda Motor Co. Representative Derrick Webber at a special campus presentation held on November 12, 2008.
Now celebrating its seventh year, the Honda Battle of the Bands is the largest and only national scholarship program that showcases the pageantry, heritage and showmanship of Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands. The ten bands selected to appear in this year’s Invitational Showcase will be awarded $20,000 by American Honda for their music scholarship programs. They also will receive an additional $1,000 grant for their participation in the Celebration Tour, HBOB’s pre-qualifying event series. In total, $244,000 in scholarship monies will be granted to HBCU music programs through this program for 2008-09.

The entire roster of winning bands includes:

- Virginia State University and Fayetteville State University, representing the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA);
- Florida A&M University and North Carolina A&T State University, representing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC);
- Tuskegee University and Kentucky State University, representing the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC);
- Jackson State University and Texas Southern University, representing the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC);
- North Carolina Central University and Edward Waters College, both independents.

Note: Downloadable broadcast video footage and photos of the winning bands is available in the Press Box section of www.HondaBattleoftheBands.com.