City Council Member Adams to Speak at TSU’s Commencement

Houston City Council member and TSU alumna, Wanda Adams will deliver the address for Texas Southern University’s 2009 Winter Commencement. A total of 475 degree candidates will participate in the December 12th exercise at 9 a.m., in the Health and Physical Education Building located on the campus.

A true Houstonian, born and raised, Wanda Adams’ life began in the very city that she now serves and enthusiastically represents as a member of Houston City Council. Having grown up on the north side of Houston, the home of great political standouts and members of Congress George “Mickey” Leland and Barbara Jordan, she has witnessed and admired the positive difference that a hometown hero can make in the community.

As a student at Kashmere High School, Adams worked hard academically and developed her leadership abilities as a member of the Ladies Basketball team. Her dedication and skills afforded her the opportunity to receive an athletic scholarship to Texas Southern University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs.

Adams’ commitment to improving the quality of life and creating opportunity in her community began early in her life. Following graduation from TSU, Adams pursued her passion for public service by beginning her career with a government-based transitional program for women re-entering society. She later transitioned into a role within a non-profit organization whose mission was to assist homeless at-risk youth. Both eye-opening experiences served as catalyst for Adams’ desire to personally do more to solve the devastating situation she witnessed each day.

Working with the City of Houston Housing Authority and the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Association provided Adams with the Knowledge and resources needed to touch the lives of citizens on a greater scale. In 2000, she started working in the Citizens’ Assistance Division of the Mayor’s Office. She believes that the best way to show her appreciation for the community she calls home is to actively give back. In 2003 Adams started an organization called Cornerstone, I. F.C. (investing in families and communities).

Ms. Adams is an active volunteer for non-profit agencies, YMCA, YWCA, Keep Houston Beautiful, and Meals on Wheels in the Sunnyside Community. Adams is an active member of the Suburban Houston Fort Bend Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. She serves as Sergeant-at-Arms and Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee. Adams is an appointed National Officer for the Social Action Commission. In 2008, she received several awards, the Award of Distinction from the National Forum of Black Public Accountants, Pillar of the Community Award, Sally S. Shipman “Friends of the Homeless” Advocacy Award to name a few. She is also an active member of the Fountain of Praise Church where she teaches Sunday School.

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.