

TADOHE

FEBRUARY 2022 SPOTLIGHT
HBCU CELEBRATION SERIES

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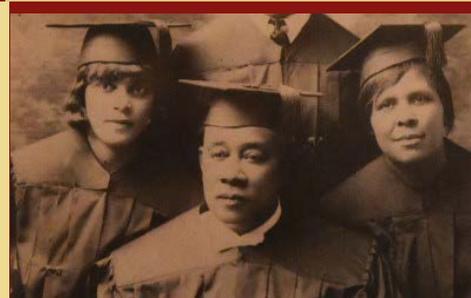
This issue: Texas College

HBCUs have long been a cornerstone of the Black community. With the majority of them being founded a few years after the passing of the Emancipation Proclamation, they represent the desire that the Black community has for collective advancement through education.

This is one of the main reasons TADOHE wanted to utilize our platform to spotlight our Texas HBCUs and their accomplishments over the years. It is so important to value and celebrate these spaces because they foster the diversity and inclusion that TADOHE and our national association, NADOHE, were created to support.

About Texas College

Texas College is a Historically Black College founded in 1894, by a group of CME ministers. Their mission continues to embody the principles of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The College seeks to prepare students with competencies in critical and creative thinking related to the knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in areas of study. Additionally, the College seeks to provide an environment to inspire intellectual, spiritual, ethical, moral, and social development, which empowers graduates to engage in life-long learning, leadership, and service.



A Brief History of Texas College

Texas College was founded in 1894 in Tyler, Texas and has remained at its founding location for 127 years. The institution was established by ministers of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church to facilitate the educational needs of African Americans, as an underserved population in the area of east Texas. In 1907, The State of Texas issued the institution a Charter that endorsed her to operate as a corporation with the rights and privileges to function as a college. A specific narrative of the Charter reads, "...The corporation is a religious and educational non-profit organization organized for the purpose: to found and operate a college, under the supervision care and ownership of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America for the education of youth, male and female, in all the branches of a literary, scientific and classical education, wherein shall be taught also theology, normal training of Teachers, music, commercial and industrial training, and the agriculture and mechanical sciences ... and to have, hold, own, teach and do everything necessary to enable it to build, maintain, equip and conduct a University of the first class at the City of Tyler in Smith County, Texas, including theology in all of the branches, science in all its departments; agriculture, horticulture, and all things pertaining thereto; and the industrial arts; together with the right to establish and confer degrees and grant diplomas."

In keeping with the founding expectations, the "heart" of the mission today reminds us that "... Our mission continues to embody the principles of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The College shall prepare students with competencies in critical and creative thinking related to the knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in areas of study. Additionally, the College shall provide an environment to inspire intellectual, spiritual, ethical, moral and social development which empowers graduates to engage in life-long learning, leadership and service." The College today delivers the mission with the incorporation of core values that address Academic Excellence, Integrity, Perseverance, Social Responsibility, Tolerance and Community Service.

Today, the College complies with its founding principles in that she remains open to all individuals without discrimination on the grounds of national origin, race, religion, or sex to those in pursuit of an education.

Since its founding, Texas College has been committed to the improvement of itself and the students it serves. Below are some exciting celebrations and events taking place at the institution.

Texas College Highlights

• Celebrating 128 years

- Founded in 1894 by a group of CME ministers to educate a disenfranchised population, Texas College has served as a beacon of hope and opportunity for the East Texas region and beyond. Learn more about the College's 128-year journey by reviewing the brief historical overview using the links below
- <https://youtu.be/L4d8zeLBfrw>
- <https://user-jq5ypqx.cld.bz/128th-Anniversary-A-Brief-Historical-Overview>

• Black History Month Gospel Workshop

- The Texas College Choir presented the Black History Month Gospel Workshop with special guest clinician Lamar Campbell. Campbell is an American gospel musician who is well known for his song "More Than Anything". The virtual event took place on Friday, February 25. You can access the live recording using the link below.
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/texas-college/black-history-gospel-workshop/663077724938254/>

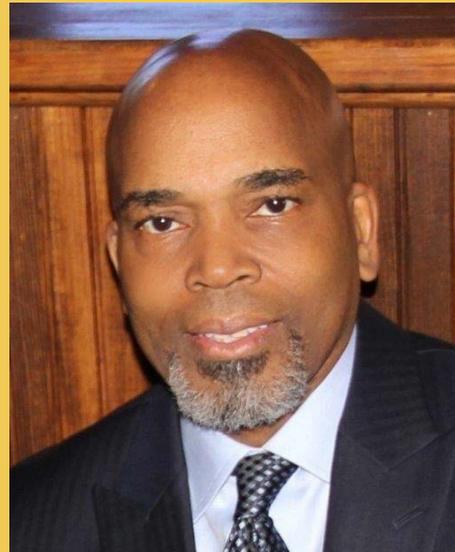
• Black History Month Vignettes

- Texas College celebrated Black History Month with a series of vignettes that highlight the significance of the month. The presentations featured a variety of historical contexts and figures that illustrate the importance of Black history. The presentations are featured on Texas College's official website and will be updated throughout the month of February. They can be accessed using the link below.
- <https://www.texascollege.edu/black-history-month>

An institution is only as good as those who lead it.
We would be remiss if we did not take space to
show our appreciation and shine the spotlight on all
of the Texas College's President.

President Dwight J. Fennell, Ph.D.

Dr. Fennell began his tenure at Texas College on February 25, 2008, at which time he was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs by Dr. Willie Champion, who was Acting President. Shortly after Dr. Fennell was hired, Dr. William Harris became Interim President until July. On August 1, 2008, after an extensive search for a president, Dr. Fennell was selected and appointed as the 23rd President of Texas College, by Bishop Ronald M. Cunningham.



Under Dr. Fennell's leadership the college has successfully completed the Fifth Year Follow-up as well as Reaffirmation of Accreditation with SACSCOC through 2026. Additionally, the college: is recognized as the Texas College District with support and contributions made by the political community and the City of Tyler; has had consecutive years of fiduciary accountability and operations in the black; has experienced enrollment growth; increased net assets; increased investments and endowment; has had major renovations which have included a new resident hall, renovations of existing resident halls, a new athletic complex, new music facility, outdoor fitness track, indoor fitness center, and an overall aesthetically appealing campus.

Presently, Martin Hall is under renovation to make it aesthetically appealing and accommodating as an administrative and learning center. It is also proposed that the administration move forward with creating academic centers of excellence that allows for strengthening and expanding the major offerings of the college. Additionally, it is proposed that the college will engage in a capital campaign that has been endorsed by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Fennell envisions a bright future for Texas College and the students who enter her doors.