

For Immediate Release

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Harris-Stowe Educational Summit – Experts on the Issues

“A Community in Turmoil: How did we get here and how do we break the cycle?”

ST. LOUIS, MO (August 18, 2014) – Harris-Stowe State University will host an educational summit, “A Community in Turmoil: How did we get here and how do we break the cycle?” on Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at 6 p.m. in the Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building Main Auditorium.

This symposium will serve as a platform for public discourse and civic engagement surrounding the events that have occurred in Ferguson, Mo., and how such events are aligned with systemic issues that continue to impact the civil rights of all Americans.

“It is important we begin to have these conversations and Harris-Stowe is committed to being the “intellectual think-tank” for everyone to come together and address the unrest in Ferguson. In order for real healing to occur and systematic change to manifest, we must be willing to have open and transparent dialogue,” stated Dr. Dwaun Warmack, president of Harris-Stowe State University. Dr. Warmack will bring forth opening and closing remarks for the summit.

This three-pronged analysis will include experts in their fields both national and local, divided into three panels; political landscape, education and economic/community development. Among the education panelist will be Tim Wise, the most prominent anti-racist writer and activists in the United States, having spoken to over 300,000 people in 48 states, and on over 400 college campuses, including Harvard, Stanford and the Law Schools at Yale, Columbia and Vanderbilt.

Wise has trained teachers as well as government, corporate, media, entertainment, military and law enforcement officials on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions, and has served as a consultant for plaintiff’s attorneys in federal discrimination cases in New York and Washington State.

Additionally, MSNBC contributor Goldie Taylor will serve on the political landscape panel. Taylor has served as executive consultant to NBC News and CNN Worldwide. In 2009, while serving as a consulting producer to CNN, Taylor re-opened an investigation into the Atlanta “Child Murders” and convicted serial killer Wayne Williams. She was also an executive consultant to CNN’s “Black in America,” which remains one of the highest rated documentaries in CNN’s history.

Taylor has previously been an external affairs executive for several Fortune 500 companies, as well as two of the world’s largest public relations agencies, the GCI Group San Francisco and Edelman Atlanta Public Relations. Taylor is currently the CEO of Goldie Taylor Brand

Communications, an Atlanta-based multi-cultural advertising and public relations agency. She is also the managing editor and host of “The Goldie Taylor Project,” an opinion blog devoted to contemporary political, social, and faith issues confronting America.

Other panelists include Dan Isom, former chief of police; Dr. Sudarsent Kant, HSSU assistant professor of political science; Mike Jones, vice president of the Missouri State Board of Education; Jazminique Holley, NAACP Missouri Youth and College President; Tony Thompson, president/CEO of KWAME Building Group, Inc.; Tishaura Jones, St. Louis city treasurer; and Daryl Jones, owner of D&D Concessions.

The Honorable Theodore Hoskins, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, Mo.; Dr. Stefan Bradley, chair of African-American studies and associate history professor at Saint Louis University; Rev. Ken McCoy, pastor of Progressive AME Zion Church; and Dr. Michelle McClure, HSSU assistant vice president for Academic Affairs will conclude the discussion on next steps as to how we move forward as a community towards positive systematic change.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a fully accredited four-year institution that offers 14 degree programs in the areas of teacher education, business and arts & sciences. In 2013, HSSU ranked No. 1 in the state in degree production of African-Americans in mathematics (Missouri Department of Higher Education). The university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor’s degree in the state of Missouri.

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