

For Immediate Release

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Harris-Stowe Qualifies to Compete at Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Nationals
Student team will challenge the best and brightest HBCU students

ST. LOUIS, MO (March 6, 2015) – Completing a hard-fought journey that began in the fall, the team representing Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) has qualified to compete at the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship Tournament (NCT) to be held March 21-25, in Torrance, Calif. Now in its 26th season, HCASC is a unique academic competition that showcases the academic prowess of the best and brightest students from America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

HSSU has qualified for the NCT every year since 1995. Last year the HSSU team ranked 12th after the round robin competition, advancing to the Sweet Sixteen. This year, HSSU will be represented by Tyler Saddler, Vincent Hagins, Cynthia M. Hill and Erik Scott Shelquist with Dr. Eileen A. O’Brien as the team coach.

With 76 HBCUs vying for a spot in the nationals, teams competed in seven qualifying tournaments held in late January. Forty-eight emerged from the group, including Harris-Stowe earning the opportunity to compete for the title of “National Champion” and a \$50,000 institutional grant from Honda.

“It’s a great day to be a Hornet and the entire HSSU family is extremely proud of its Honda Campus All-Star Team,” stated President Warmack. “Our Honda scholars have a longstanding tradition of commendable performance at the competition and serving as ambassadors of the institution’s academic strength. Additional “kudos” to Dr. Eileen O’Brien who has coached the Harris-Stowe team for more than 20 years. We look forward to them bringing home additional honors and wish them the very best as they ably represent HSSU yet another year.”

The 2015 NCT will be live-streamed on Monday, March 23, starting at 12:00 ET on HCASC.com and other websites.

Throughout its 26-year tenure, HCASC is one of Honda’s largest and longest running philanthropic initiatives in the United States. The program has touched more than 100,000 students and awarded more than \$7.5 million in grants. In addition to providing students a venue for friendly competition, the program encourages relationship building, intellectual excellence, and the development of values that define good character.

For more information on the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge and a list of the participating HBCUs, please go to www.HCASC.com.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a fully accredited four-year institution that offers 16 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 and ranked 4th of 13 public institutions in the degree production of African-Americans (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.

Cutline: HSSU's 2015 Honda Campus All-Star Team (from left) Coach Eileen O'Brien, Captain Tyler Saddler, Cynthia Hill, Vincent Hagins and Eric Shelquist.

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