

For Immediate Release

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Harris-Stowe State University Attends the 2014 Silicon Valley HBCU ICE Summit

ST. LOUIS, MO (November 7, 2014) – Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) is honored to announce five delegates have been invited to attend the 2014 Silicon Valley Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Summit November 13-17, 2014, in Silicon Valley, Calif. The event is hosted by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHI-HBCU).

The HSSU delegates attending this year’s ICE Summit are Candies Wilson, information technology major; Ciarra Evans, mathematics major; Dr. Tommie Turner, director of the Institute for Science & Mathematics; Dr. Diane Smoot, associate professor of computer education/computer science; and Dr. Fatemeh Zakery, dean of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business.

The summit comprised of both public and private HBCUs, is a multi-year event focused on identifying best practices for university-based innovation, commercialization and entrepreneurship; aligning research and development on HBCU campuses with industry; and connecting HBCUs to local and regional innovation ecosystems.

“I was informed about the progressive 2014 HBCU Innovation Summit and the collaborative tech opportunities for HBCUs by Dr. John Michael Lee Jr., at the APLU,” stated Dr. Tommie Turner. “I greatly appreciate Dr. Chad Womack and Ms. Carita Marrow at the UNCF for their gracious invitation. I am excited that Harris-Stowe will be represented at this year’s summit and the potential outcomes from the discussions.”

Two major themes will be the focus of this year’s conference. The first, Pathways for Success: computer science education and tech-workforce development in the information technology (IT) sector will include discussions on the status and performance of computer science education on university campuses, and exploring and implementing innovative models for computer science education. This component will also include a student tech-empowerment workshop held at both Google and Facebook headquarters. The second, Building Sustainable HBCU Innovation Ecosystems, will address building sustainable innovation ecosystems on university campuses that are networked across the HBCU landscape. The summit will conclude with a leadership roundtable on tech-diversity and inclusion.

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.

Cutline: The HSSU 2014 Silicon Valley HBCU ICE Summit delegates (front row from left) Candies Wilson and Ciarra Evans; (back row from left) Dr. Fatemeh Zakery, Dr. Diane Smoot and Dr. Tommie Turner.

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