

**For Immediate Release**

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**Harris-Stowe Students Selected to Attend the Thurgood Marshall College Fund  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Institute**

ST. LOUIS, MO (November 11, 2014) – Harris-Stowe State University proudly announces two students were selected to attend the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Institute, “Developing Minds...Delivering Dreams” November 9-12, 2014, in Washington, DC. This year’s 2014 TMCf participants are junior biology major Chelsea Pretz; and senior criminal justice major Jonathan Bacchus.

Since 2000, the TMCf national leadership institute has developed students’ leadership skills, introduced various career opportunities, created a community of scholars, provided companies access to a talented and diverse student population, and helped students make connections that lead to internships and full-time positions. Each year, the conference gives students attending the 47 publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including the law and medical schools, a first-hand professional development experience. Students are interviewed during the spring and fall semesters, and those selected as “TMCf Scholars” will attend a four-day conference in Washington, D.C. where they will have the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with some of the world’s top leaders of business and government.

“This is a phenomenal opportunity for our students to gain exposure to organizations from across the country and expand their professional networks,” stated Wanda McNeil, director of career services and TMCf campus coordinator at HSSU. “Students who participate in the leadership institute are excited to bring information back to their fellow students and share their experiences.”

The conference culminates with the students participating in a recruitment fair where they meet with companies, government agencies and graduate program representatives offering job, internship and continuing education opportunities. Successful leaders of industry, government and higher education invest in their education, further developing their talents.

Over the years, more than 75 HSSU students have benefited from training and exposure to major corporations throughout the country as a result of the TMCf programming including the leadership and career conferences, sales training and the Teacher Quality and Retention Program (TQRP). Additionally, several HSSU students have won scholarships and internships through TMCf corporate partners which include Siemens Science Day Scholarship, Coca-Cola, Walmart and the Department of Energy.

“Through TMCf, I was exposed to recruiting officers associated with many Fortune 500 companies, and I was able to meet students from across the country who are in similar situations

as myself – while realizing my abilities to become a professional, productive citizen,” stated 2013 participant and HSSU alumna Ashley Byington. “The TMCF Leadership Institute is something I hope every focused, determined student can participate in before graduating.”

The TMCF, named for the U.S. Supreme Court's first African-American Justice was established in 1987 under the leadership of Dr. N. Joyce Payne in cooperation with Miller Brewing Co., Sony Music, the National Basketball Association, Reebok and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities. TMCF supports and represents nearly 300,000 students attending its 47 member-schools that include public HBCUs medical schools and law school.

For more information about the TMCF visit <http://thurgoodmarshallfund.net/>.

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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