

PVAMU Partnership With Thurgood Marshall College Fund Boasts Test Scores Among Minority Students

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BROOKSHIRE, Texas-- (Feb. 16, 2009)--The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Redesign Network announces the results of its college preparedness pilot program. Prairie View A&M University partnered with the TMCF Redesign Network to help facilitate a national school reform and partnership initiative.

The program is supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program's mission is to assess, identify, implement and improve best practices in school reform from across the country to drive enhanced performance in underserved school districts that largely serve minority students.

The Network established partnerships between historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and high schools that educate at-risk students. Through a competitive process, six benchmark schools from underserved communities across the country were selected to partner with five HBCUs. These colleges and universities were charged with implementing redesign initiatives to better prepare students for college, thereby helping to close the academic achievement gap.

Royal High School partnered with Prairie View A&M University for the 2007-08 school year and made exemplary strides as a result of participation in the program. Reported below are some of the statistical results achieved through the partnership.

- Preliminary TAKS test scores show significant improvement compared to scores in 2005.
- 83% of math students met state standards for the TAKS test. This rate is 90 percent higher than the 2005 levels.
- 86% of English language arts students met the state standards. This rate is 14 percent higher than 2005 levels.
- 93% of social studies students and 74 percent of science students met state proficiency standards.

Due to the commitment of faculty members and administrators at Royal and Prairie View, students in the program are better prepared to excel academically and professionally on a global scale. "The achievements of the unique partnership between Prairie View A&M University and Royal High School indicate that the model is something that can be successfully duplicated across the country," said President George C. Wright. Prairie View's heritage is grounded in a commitment to educating students - at all levels. "We are indeed delighted to help create a model for other institutions to duplicate."

Schools participating in the program in several other states have also seen marked academic improvements among high school students. Those partnerships include:

- Coppin State University/Coppin Academy High School #434– Baltimore, MD
- Southern University/Capital Pre-College Academy for Girls/Boys – Baton Rouge, LA
- Winston-Salem State University/Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy – Winston-Salem, NC
- Texas Southern University/Texas Southern University Math & Science at Jones High School – Houston, TX

About Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Inc.

Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Inc. was established in 1987 and named for the late U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice, Thurgood Marshall. It is the fifth largest African-American non-profit organization in the United States, and is the largest contributor to public HBCUs. The organization has raised more than \$90 million during the history of its establishment. The mission of the TMCF is to develop and prepare a new generation of leaders by providing leadership development, scholarships, resources, opportunities and advocacy to public Historically Black Colleges and Universities, students and alumni.

About Prairie View A&M University

Ranked the only Texas school on Black Enterprise magazine's 2006 list of "Top 50 Colleges and Universities for African-Americans," Prairie View A&M University was founded in 1876 and is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees in 50 academic majors, 41 master's degrees and four doctoral degree programs through nine colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and service. During the university's 132 year history, nearly 51,000 academic degrees have been awarded. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.