



NAACP

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*****Press Advisory*******Who:**

Harris Stowe NAACP Youth & College Branch
St. Louis City NAACP

When/Where:

Monday - April 30, 2018

10:00 A.M.

Bosley Hall, Harris Stowe State University
3026 Laclede Ave., St. Louis Mo. 63103
(314) 340-3366

What:

10 AM Press Conference

NAACP will brief Media on the formation of the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Higher Education

Born out of segregation, Missouri has two Historic Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) Harris Stowe State University and Lincoln University; and the lack of investment into these institutions by the State of Missouri demonstrates the state's troubles with inequity in higher education are far from resolved. The underfunding, and allowing other state schools to duplicate their programs placing pressure on enrollment reflects a "shameful history of de jure segregation" and the "practices of unnecessary program duplication continue to have harmful effects" at both schools. The previously mentioned factors can be traced to a bygone era of De Jure Segregation or in other words State sponsored and enforced segregation. This may beg the question, what does that have to do with people here in 2018?

Well, the United States Supreme Court has made it clear in *United State vs Fordice* that (1) a State will not have complied with its affirmative duty to dismantle the vestiges of segregation if it merely adopts race-neutral policies and (2) "[i]f a State perpetuates policies and practices traceable to its prior system that continue to have segregative effects - whether by influencing student enrollment decisions or by fostering segregation in other facets of the university system - and such policies are without sound educational justifications and can be practicably eliminated, the State has not satisfied its burden of proving that it has dismantled its prior system." The Supreme Court emphasized that the burden of proof falls on each State to establish that it has dismantled its prior de jure segregated system.

The Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Higher Education: The Plan of the Corporation is to conduct activities to achieve educational and charitable objectives within the State of Missouri, focusing primarily on activities that ensure equity for Missouri's Historic Black Colleges & Universities.

“The mission of the HBCUs in providing a college degree is substantially different and more challenging than that of ‘Traditional White Institutions’ - HBCUs historically and into the future have a dual mission. They are committed to the traditional mission of any institution of higher education to provide a quality educational experience and guide students to the attainment of a college degree. HBCUs in Missouri also have as their mission to address the educational needs of students who come from families with traditionally less education and income who are often under prepared as a result of their circumstances - not their abilities - for college level work. Helping these under prepared students earn a college degree is central to the HBCU mission. This function for the HBCU is disproportionately more important than in the Traditional White Institution.” (Telayah Richards & Adolphus Pruitt)

Harris-Stowe began as two separate St. Louis institutions: Harris Teachers College, created in 1857 for white students, and Stowe Teachers College, established in 1890 to educate black students. In 1954, the St. Louis Public Schools' Board of Education merged the schools, which later took the name Harris-Stowe State University.

Lincoln University's beginnings were also rooted in segregation. In 1866, following the civil war, members of the 62nd Colored Infantry began Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City with a few thousand dollars. The second Morrill Act of 1890 established the educational program as a land grant institution as its curriculum expanded to include industrial and agricultural courses.

The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic processes.