

4-1-2012

Forward

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Forward," *Engaged: The journal of Tennessee State University*: Vol. 1, Article 12.

Available at: <http://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/ejtsu/vol1/iss1/12>

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Foreword

In celebration of 100 years of service to higher education, what could be a more fitting way to capture TSU's measure than to present its inaugural issue of the Journal of Tennessee State University, which is our first refereed publication? With contributions from our University family, including alumni, this original periodical is presented in print form. Subsequent issues will be digitally produced and include inter-disciplinary exploration of issues, research, and service important to students, faculty, and staff at institutions of higher learning around the globe.

How this institution began will be of particular interest to our students and should serve as a reference for those interested in the toil, sweat, and tears that produced notable alumni serving throughout the years in a variety of fields including medicine and health, education, engineering and the sciences, and business.

In addition, our Civil Rights' history highlighting the courage displayed by the Freedom Riders provides rich detail about the challenges they faced and overcame and offers motivation to those who understand that history creates the foundation for the shoulders on which we stand. Moreover, the legacy of Olympians and fortitude of Wilma Rudolph make us glad to tread the same athletic ground as these heroes. And, through Dr. McDonalds' analysis of TSU's early music years, we can almost hear the vibrant sounds of decades between the time the school began and through the mid-forties.

In all the articles, the theme of excellence, resilience, and unity permeates our story. For 100 years, Tennessee State University has grown

into an international treasure. I encourage you to read all of the articles and then begin writing the next chapter in our history because, with all that has been accomplished, TSU has only just begun.

Portia Shields