

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT EVA PICKENS
(713) 313-4205

Congresswoman Sheila Lee Brings the news, TSU Record Clean with DOE



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, center, makes the announcement that TSU settlement with Department of Education is final. She is surrounded by TSU President John M. Rudley, TSU administrators, students and alumni.

Texas Southern University recently received much anticipated news from the Department of Education. The millions of dollars in fines regarding a review of their Federal Student Aid have been settled; due to persistence in negotiating the settlement by Congresswoman Lee.

During the Bush Administration without notice the settlement was withdrawn. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee renewed her ongoing efforts to clarify the Department of Education's position; and immediately at the beginning of the Obama Administration began her work again with the new Secretary of Education. Congresswoman Lee continued to work directly with the Department of Education, as the university was providing substantial documentation on their position. The announcement of the elimination of the debt came in early July, 2009.

"This has been a very long journey for this great institution. TSU owes no more money. The new TSU is ready to move forward with a clean record from the Department of Education during President Barack Obama's administration," stated Congresswoman Jackson Lee.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee goes on to state that, "When I was notified by the Department of Education, I felt this was a long awaited resolution. The millions of dollars saved can now be invested in the education of Texas Southern University students. Congratulations to President John Rudley and his staff. This will now open many doors for Texas Southern University's work with the Department of Education and it will help the University continue its pursuit of educational excellence."

"This has been a thirteen (13) year struggle. Now we can use those funds to enhance student life, faculty development and research. We have Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee to thank for this – from the bottom of our hearts we say thank you," stated Texas Southern President John M. Rudley.

Glenn Lewis, Board of Regents Chairman stated that, “This announcement is significant to the lifeblood of Texas Southern University. Through unending persistence, Congresswoman Lee has helped secure a final settlement of a long-standing debt to the Department of Education for Texas Southern University that results today in millions of dollars being saved – monies that can now be allocated to significant student development and faculty research. “

Congresswoman Jackson Lee ended the press conference by saying, “This is a door opener that will never close. Congratulations TSU! We are on the road.”