Behind the Work

View through The CENTER: A New Foundation supports New Alumni Center Needs Additional Funding

Located in the Central Basin of a flat and fertile region in north-central Tennessee, Nashville is a U.S. city with the second largest land mass — more than 300 square miles. The Nashville area is a hub for higher education, with more than 22 accredited universities and technical schools in its credit, including nine (9) four-year institutions, six (6) community colleges and fifteen (15) vocational and technical schools. Tennessee State University (TSU) founded in 1912 is known as Tennessee A & I – now Tennessee State University. Founded in 1970, the Tennessee State University Foundation (Foundation) is one of 107 historically black land-grant universities (HBCUs) and a member of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The Story

The Center will stand as a landmark, a museum, and a monument, drawing the university community, young, seasoned, and visitors to Nashville to become immersed in the history, creativity, and talents of all who have entered her portals. It is estimated that the Center will cost $5M. The initial $1M was donated by an alumni couple.

New Social Justice Scholarship

The Foundation Board consistantly endeavors to enhance student enrollment and student retention by ensuring the capacity to assist with scholarships. To that end and thoughts amid the nation’s racial reckoning, the Foundation Board established THE JOHN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP for Social Justice. As a college student in Nashville, John Robert Lewis, a 2011 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, began a non-violent sit-in campaign at a Nashville lunch counter in 1961. The John Lewis Scholarship will support an undergraduate student majoring in a Social Justice related curriculum at TSU. The scholarship will also honor TSU Alumni that supported Representative Lewis’ mission.

New Alumni Center Needs Additional Funding

Additionally, the Foundation supports THE ALUMNI CENTER: A New View through The Eyes of a Tiger.

The Center is comprised of members who are admired and respected for the individual and collective talents, devotion, and commitment to TSU: 50 years of consistently building a Board of professionals with experiences and exposures to accommodate its exponential growth and development has benefited the work of the Foundation and TSU. Directors receive no monetary compensation or rewards for service. Their sacrifices are gladly and proudly rendered. The Board is compelled to stay focused on the future stability of the University. Your introduction to the first phase of the Foundation Story which includes current initiatives is shared with pride and anticipation. Now is the time for all to come to the aid of the University – the Nashville community, businesses, organizations, TSU alumni and friends. The Foundation Board solicits your tax-exempt contribution to support scholarships and construction of the Alumni, a landmark, a university that is less than half a mile from the House of Representatives. It need not be your gift, if not now when? Be it large or small, whether from wealth or a small contribution willingly given, your gift will profoundly impact the History and Growth of TSU and Nashville, Tennessee.

Thank you.