



**NOMINATION FORM  
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

**Section A: Nomination Information**

Name of Nominated person, place or event: TEXAS COLLEGE

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

**Section B: Nominator's Information**

Name of person making nomination: Dr. Dwight J. Fennell

Address: Texas College - 2404 North Grand Avenue

City: Tyler State: TX Zip: 75702

Daytime telephone: (903) 593-8311 Email: dfennell@texascollege.edu

Relationship to nominated individual:

President

Nominated Individual's year of death: -

**Section C: Narrative**

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

**Please submit nominations to:**  
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board  
Attention: Half Mile of History  
P.O. Box 2039  
Tyler, Texas 75710



## TEXAS COLLEGE

2404 North Grand Avenue  
Tyler, Texas 75702

Phone: 903-593-8311, ext. 2270  
Fax: 903-593-0588  
[www.texascollege.edu](http://www.texascollege.edu)

*Office of the President*

April 15, 2009

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board  
Attn: Half Mile of History  
P.O. Box 2039  
Tyler, Texas 75710

Dear City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration, an application in behalf of Texas College for the project, "*Half Mile of History*." Texas College has been a part of the Tyler community for more than a century and has a rich and rewarding history. The College has been embraced by the Tyler community and in many instances has collaborated with businesses, individuals and corporations to offer cultural enrichment and educational development for Tyler citizens and beyond. It is because of our affinity for this community that we want to be recognized as part of "*Historic Tyler*."

Should you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (903) 593-8311, ext. 2270. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dwight J. Fennell  
President

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APR 22 2009

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Historical Overview of Texas College

Texas College is a residential, coeducational, historically black, baccalaureate degree granting college of the liberal arts founded January 9, 1894, (31 years after slavery -115 years ago) by a group of committed ministers and laity, as a part of the educational ministry of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church). It represented an expression of their faith as they sought to educate the children of former slaves and prepare them for a new life following the Emancipation Proclamation. Educational opportunities for freed-men and women were a major focus of Blacks in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Opportunities for public education were extremely limited and teachers were difficult to find. School began at Texas College on January 9, 1895 in a four-room residence with one teacher, Professor Samuel Allen Caffin, and six students. The physical plant consisted of (2) framed buildings. The classes were taught in one room and recitations were heard in the hall. Texas College received its official charter in 1907. Currently it is under the auspices of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Initially, Texas College was a school devoted to elementary, agricultural, mechanical and normal courses. The school was clearly intended to remedy the limited or nonexistent education of Blacks at that time. In 1909, the name of Texas College was changed to Phillips University in honor of the presiding Bishop, Bishop C. H. Phillips, who was also Chairman of the Board of Trustees. However, the name of Texas College was resumed in 1912.

Texas College is located in Tyler (Smith County) Texas on what was originally a one and one-fourth acre farm, which is 100 miles east of Dallas, Texas and 90 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana.

In 1930 Texas College gained its recognition and three years of college work were accepted by the State. In 1932 Texas College received accreditation by the State Department of Education, was recognized as a fully accredited four-year senior college, and was granted membership in the association of American Colleges. This rating by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools attracted unusual attention because Texas College initiated and developed a community-centered program for the in-service development of teachers.

Texas College was now giving time to the athletic side of the extra-curricular activities and, despite the depression, there was an increase in the administrative staff and the curricular was broadened. In addition to the erection of the gymnasium, the athletic plant was expanded.

In 1944 Texas College became a charter member of the United Negro College Fund, and in 1946 Texas College contracted with the City of Tyler to operate a Tyler District College, a branch of the Tyler Junior College on its campus. Texas College also incorporated an extension program of the Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University and offered training to in-service ministers. A graduate program in education was created in 1951 and approved by the Texas Education Agency, but was discontinued in 1959, along with the football program, to provide more funding for undergraduate education. In 1957 the school received a 50 year extension on its charter.

In 1900 only 2,624 black students were enrolled in college nationwide. By 1950 the number had risen to 89,000. Since the end of segregation, black colleges have continued to offer educational opportunities to those choosing not to attend integrated public or private institutions. The success of black colleges in educating black youth during segregation is evidenced by the careers of graduates. Texas College alumni alone (over 7,000) represent leadership roles in business, education, religion and the professions.

Under the administration of the longest serving President Dr. D. R. Glass – 3 decades – maximum enrollment reached 2,274 and the graduating classes grew from three persons to more than 200 graduates at the spring

and summer commencement exercises. Texas College, the oldest institution of higher learning in Tyler, was often referred to as the "fastest growing college in the Southwest." The College was described as a community college, and through its program of education for pre-service and in-service teachers, its school of theology, its evening classes and fifth year of study, (student teaching), it met the needs and interest of the people. These graduates are now making wonderful and distinct contributions to the Tyler community and the communities in which they reside.

In 1966 a new personality arrived. Bishop Norris S. Curry was assigned to the Eighth Episcopal District. He re-established contact with the power structure of the city, thus immediate assistance came to the College. On January 10, 1968, the Tyler Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution that included the following statement: "Be it further resolved that the Tyler Chamber of Commerce pledges its full cooperation in creating community support to the end that Texas College will become a first-class institution of higher learning in every sense of the word."

On November 21, 2006 – The Tyler City Council, at their regular meeting approved the Historical Preservation Board's recommendation to designate four buildings at Texas College: J. C. Martin Hall, the President's House, Gus F. Taylor Gymnasium, and the D. R. Glass Library as Tyler Historic Landmarks. The following year the D. R. Glass Library and the President's House were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Texas College has an "open admissions" policy that permits it to serve a broad-based, traditional and non-traditional student clientele. Many of these students are first-generation college students needing substantial academic reinforcement. The College seeks to address the support needs of all students by providing a comprehensive enrichment program designed to enhance academic performance and development.

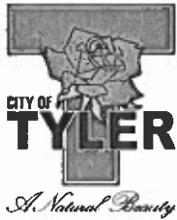
Texas College's mission is to ensure that graduates experience a balanced intellectual, psycho-social, and spiritual development aimed at making them active and productive members of society. The College pursues academic excellence; instills integrity; implants perseverance; promotes social responsibility; emphasizes tolerance; and encourages community service by its students as essential anchors in fulfilling its mission in an ever-changing world. The College recognizes the dynamic nature of the modern world and, hence, the need to integrate faith with technological and scientific advancements to improve the human condition.

The vision of Texas College, of our current president Dr. Dwight J. Fennell, is to establish within her an environment that embraces a *culture of learning*. Such a culture addresses the teaching and learning process that undergirds academics, athletics, services and supports that are beneficial to our students, the broader community, and our stakeholders at large.

This vision embraces professionals who are integral to the academic preparation of students, deliberate in teaching (and learning) that leads to content maturation and personal development of learners, and passionate about the skill development and readiness of students for entry into the job market and/or graduate school.

The culture of learning also embraces the raising of standards and expectations of academic delivery, while also demonstrating values, morals, and spiritual development that enhance life. The culture of learning encompasses the address of mechanisms and supports the retention of both our students and our professional family (who give of themselves).

The vision of Texas College represents a commitment to working and interacting with groups, organizations, and communities that can assist with enriching the further development of our students, staff, and faculty; while also having the expectation of Texas College to enrich the lives of community. The vision of Texas College is to "*Enhance the Culture of Learning*," for the benefit of a better society.



**CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS  
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



**Agenda Number:**

**Date:** May 27, 2009

**Subject:** Request that the City Council consider designating Texas College as a Half Mile of History recipient.

**Page:** 1 of 2

**Item Reference:** Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On May 6, 2009, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Texas College for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative taken from the application follows:

Texas College as a residential, coeducational, historically black, baccalaureate degree granting college in liberal arts that was founded in January, 1894 by a group of committed ministers and laity of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. One of the beginning goals of the school was to educate the children of former slaves (the school was started just 31 years after slavery). Educational opportunities for freed-men and women were a major focus of Blacks in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The school began with six students and one teacher in a four-room residence. Texas College received its official charter in 1907. Currently it is under the auspices of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1944 Texas College became a charter member of the United Negro College Fund. Texas College, located in North Tyler, has been a part of the Tyler community for the past 115 years.

**Agenda Number:**

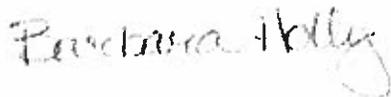
**Page: 2 of 2**

Texas College, the oldest institution of higher learning in Tyler, was often referred to as the "fastest growing college in the Southwest". Under the direction of Dr. D.R. Glass, the longest serving president, (three decades) the maximum enrollment reached 2,274 and the graduating classes grew from three persons to more than 200 graduates. With the current leadership, the college is continuing its vision of commitment to working and interacting with groups, organizations and communities that assist with enriching the further development of our students, staff and faculty.

In 2006, the Tyler City Council designated four buildings on the college campus: J.C. Martin Hall, the President's House, Gus F. Taylor Gymnasium and the D. R. Glass Library as local Tyler Historic Landmarks. And in 2007, the D.R. Glass Library and the President's House were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

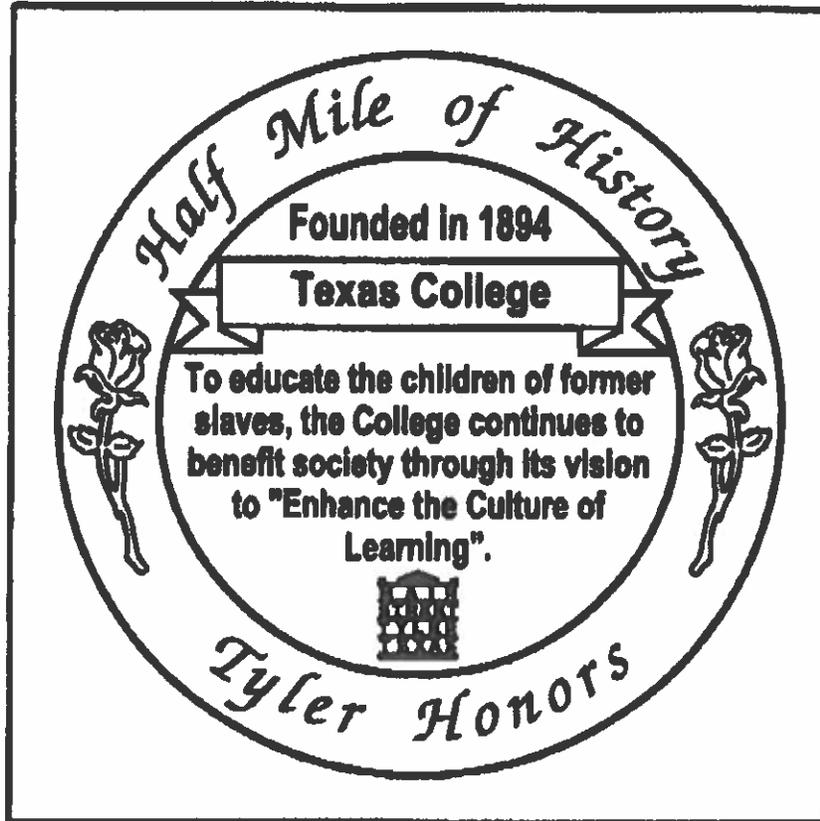
The Tyler Historical Preservation Board, by a unanimous vote, request that the City Council approve the designation of Texas College as a Half Mile of History recipient.



**Drafted/Recommended By:            Barbara Holly**  
**Department Leader**

**Edited/Submitted By:**  
**City Manager**

**FORT WORTH MONUMENT**  
6811 Jackboro Hwy.  
Ft. Worth, TX 76114  
817-625-2721



**Total Cost - 500.00 each delivered**

**The Lettering on this stone is smaller than we recommend**

**We cannot guaranty the lettering.**

**Sign and fax back to 817-624-8428**

*BA OK*

*K. Bridger*

*5*

08/12/09

Fort Worth Monument Company  
5811 Jacksboro Hwy  
Fort Worth, TX 76114  
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.  
We are expecting to have our ceremony on September 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

## TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since 1899, the library has served to expand the horizons and dreams of Tyler's citizens while connecting them to the cultural and historic heritage of mankind.

## TEXAS COLLEGE

Founded in 1894 to educate the children of former slaves, the College continues to benefit society through its vision to "Enhance the Culture of Learning".

Thanks,  
Heather

## Heather Nick

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**From:** Fennell, Dwight [dfennell@TexasCollege.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 12:58 PM  
**To:** Heather Nick  
**Cc:** Fennell, Angelia; Cruise, Ebony; Everett, Larry; Galbreth, Jennifer  
**Subject:** FW: Texas College Half Mile History Stone and Ceremony  
**Importance:** High

Heather,

Thank you. The statement below is acceptable.

Best wishes,  
Dwight Fennell  
Texas College  
(903) 593-8311, ext. 2270

**From:** Heather Nick [mailto:hnick@tylertexas.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** Fennell, Dwight  
**Subject:** Texas College Half Mile History Stone and Ceremony  
**Importance:** High

Please review and approve the suggested language.  
After receiving your approval we will order the stone so that we will have it for the September Ceremony.

### TEXAS COLLEGE

Founded in 1894 to educate the children of former slaves, the College continues to benefit society through its vision to "Enhance the Culture of Learning."

The proposed ceremony date is September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
The ceremony will be held on the square downtown.

Thanks,  
Heather

### Heather Nick

Senior Planner\MPO Coordinator  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

#### City of Tyler

✉ hnick@tylertexas.com

☎ 903.531.1174

🌐 www.tylerpz.org

🌐 www.tyler21plan.com

8/12/2009

**Heather Nick**

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**From:** Fennell, Dwight [dfennell@TexasCollege.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2009 10:36 AM  
**To:** Heather Nick  
**Cc:** Fennell, Angelia; Cruise, Ebony  
**Subject:** RE: Half Mile of History Marker location

Heather:

Thank you for sharing this with me. The location is acceptable as offered.

Best wishes,  
Dwight J. Fennell  
(903) 593-8311, ext. 2270

**From:** Heather Nick [mailto:hnick@tylertexas.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2009 10:22 AM  
**To:** Heather Nick  
**Subject:** Half Mile of History Marker location

Please view the attached map and verify that the proposed location of your nominated Half Mile of History Marker is acceptable.

Thanks,  
Heather

**Heather Nick**  
Senior Planner  
Historic Preservation Officer  
City of Tyler

MPO Coordinator  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
✉ hnick@tylertexas.com  
☎ 903.531.1174  
🌐 www.tylerpz.org  
🌐 www.tyler21plan.com