



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Names LeMoyne-Owen College Student an All-Star**

MEMPHIS, TN (Sept. 1, 2016) The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCU) recently named LeMoyne-Owen College junior and business major James Kimble a member of the 2016 class of HBCU All-Stars. Kimble is one of 73 students selected from 63 of the nation's HBCUs. WHIHBCU recognized undergraduate, graduate and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership and civic engagement. The HBCU All-Stars will serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative by providing outreach and communication with their fellow students about the value of education and the Initiative as a networking resource.

"During the course of one academic school year, the 73 All-Stars will distinguish themselves as exemplars of the talent that HBCUs cultivate and as noble ambassadors of their respective institutions," said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "The Initiative is looking forward to working with this third class of All-Stars and is confident this opportunity will allow the Initiative to meaningfully connect with HBCU students and advance academic excellence at their schools."

"We are truly proud of Mr. Kimble," LOC President Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller said. "His desire to give back to others through service embodies our mission and his outstanding academic achievements are a shining example of how LeMoyne-Owen College's rich legacy continues since its founding in 1862."

Kimble is a full-time student in LeMoyne-Owen College's Accelerated Studies for Adults and Professionals program where he majors in business. He also works full-time as an over-the-road truck driver and driver trainer. Despite his hectic schedule, he has managed to maintain a 3.8 grade point average, leading to his induction into the prestigious Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Kimble says he was elated to receive the news and looks forward to representing LeMoyne-Owen College and HBCUs everywhere. "I am overwhelmed and extremely grateful to receive this opportunity," Kimble said. "I look forward to working with the campus and the community this year."

ADD ONE  
HBCU All-Star

Kimble's main goal over the next year is to establish a My Brother's Keeper program at LeMoyne-Owen. President Barack Obama established the program in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

Kimble says this mission resonates with him and that he is in the right place at the right time to get the job done. "LeMoyne-Owen fosters intelligence, personal growth and positive life choices and this makes it the ideal setting for My Brother's Keeper," Kimble said. "This program will give the young men of LeMoyne-Owen, including myself, an opportunity to pay it forward in the name of the institution that has given us a chance to achieve greatness."

Over the next year, Kimble and his fellow honorees will serve as ambassadors by providing outreach opportunities and communicating with other students about the value of both education and the Initiative as a networking source. Using social media, relationships with community-based organizations, and sessions with industry professionals, the students will share proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential. They will also participate in the White House HBCU Week Conference, national and regional events, and webinars with Initiative staff and other professionals on a range of disciplines that support a spirit of engagement and personal and professional development.

"We're looking forward to working with this new class of HBCU All Stars," said Deputy Under Secretary of Education and Acting Executive Director White House Initiative on HBCUs Kim Hunter Reed. "Our goal is to provide a unique opportunity for these talented students that exposes them to critical national conversations and thought leaders. No doubt they will make their mark and represent their campuses well."

The All-Stars were selected from over 300 students from 24 states, the District of Columbia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Virgin Islands. They will work together and as a group and network with one another to achieve their goals.

Upon graduation from LeMoyne-Owen, Kimble hopes to continue his education and eventually earn a master's degree. In the meantime, the New Orleans native who made Memphis his home shortly after Hurricane Katrina hopes to launch his food truck business where he will serve Louisiana cuisine infused with Memphis barbecue flavor.

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### **About LeMoyne-Owen College**

LeMoyne-Owen College is a four-year liberal arts institution that prepares students to become critical thinkers, to lead productive and successful lives, and to make positive contributions to their respective communities. LeMoyne-Owen occupies a beautifully landscaped campus about ten minutes from downtown Memphis and one block from the Stax Museum and Academy of American Soul Music. With a rich heritage that dates back to 1862, the College promotes diversity in its student body, staff and faculty. Its core curriculum, which emphasizes a multicultural education, is a national model shown to build student confidence. The student is challenged by a rigorous course of study in English communication, literature, African American history, humanities, natural science, biological science, mathematics, social science, and lifetime fitness—all while pursuing the requirements of his or her academic major.