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LeMoyne-Owen College and Lane College Basketball Players to Attend Historic Luncheon and Tour National Civil Rights Museum

MEMPHIS, TN (Feb. 8, 2017) LeMoyne-Owen College and Lane College basketball players will meet off the hardwood to kick off a series of activities meant to heal the athletics rift and unify the student bodies of both institutions at a luncheon Thursday, Feb. 9 at 2:30 p.m. at the National Civil Rights Museum. The student athletes will tour the museum and legendary former head coach Jerry C. Johnson, who coached the Magicians for over 40 years, will address the group and shed light on the illustrious history of athletic competition between the schools.

The luncheon follows a heated matchup Jan. 14 in Bruce Hall between the two teams that had to be canceled. “The luncheon represents a meeting of the minds and hearts that we hope will lay the foundation for abiding sportsmanship on and off the court going forward,” LeMoyne-Owen College President Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller said. “I’m proud of the work the players, coaches and staff of both institutions have done to provide the players this opportunity to engage in dialogue in such a productive and collegial manner,” Miller added.

“We value our rivalry with Lane, our sister HBCU,” Magicians head coach William Anderson said. “The incident Jan. 14th was an unfortunate one that I hope will spark a relationship between our schools that is positive and unprecedented.”

The activities lined up ahead of the matchup at Lane College Feb. 11 include a Leadership Summit for the members of the Student Government Associations and Royal Court of both institutions at Lane College Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. The Lady Magicians tip off against the Lady Dragons later that day at 1 p.m. in Oman Arena in Jackson, Tennessee and the men’s game begins at 3 p.m.

Both colleges have agreed to replay the canceled Jan. 14th game on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14 in Bruce Hall on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College. Tipoff is 3 p.m. The game will be open to students, faculty and staff from both institutions with current campus ID only.

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