

Nicholls State University
Student Government Association
Donald G. Bollinger Memorial Student Union

March 31, 2014

Dear Student Senate:

The Department of Mass Communication (MACO) is requesting funding to host "Voices of Possibilities," an event in commemoration of Black History Month 2015.

The event will be a series of lectures and discussion groups focusing on contemporary issues of personal and communal racial identity. In commemoration of Black History Month, speakers will be invited for their unique experiences, enthusiasm for engaging difficult issues, and ability to speak to these issues in knowledgeable and nuanced ways. For example, two of the speakers we intend to invite, if funding is procured, are Dr. Theon Hill and Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

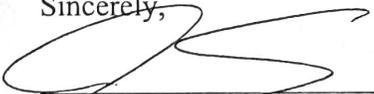
Dr. Hill, assistant professor at West Chester University, studies the role of radical rhetoric in civic engagement, specifically how radical rhetoric can challenge societies to live up to the core values they profess. We would like to invite the NAACP student chapter to collaborate in planning and leading the discussion group with Dr. Hill.

Ms. Joyner-Kersey is the most decorated female athlete in the history of track and field and the founder of the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center Foundation, an outreach program for underprivileged children in her hometown. We would like to invite the women's track and field team to collaborate in planning and leading the discussion group with Ms. Joyner-Kersey.

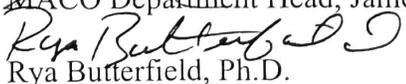
We would also like to organize a panel discussion around three people with ties to southern Louisiana including Amy Benya, J.D., a graduate from Nicholls State University who has worked in family and organizational law; Dr. Barbara Carpenter, dean of International Education and Director of Continuing Education and Center for Service Learning at Southern University; and Nicholls's own Dr. Tommy Ponson, director of Judicial Affairs and recipient of the 2009 Staff Unity Achievement Award.

Our goal is to host interactive events, where the speakers' stories provide the foundation for community discussion then and later. We are seeking financial support to assist guest speakers with travel and accommodation, speaker honorariums, and event advertisement throughout the greater Thibodaux/Houma area.

Sincerely,



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