



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FedEx Corporation Announces \$1 Million Gift to Support Information Technology at LeMoyne-Owen College**

*The College's first woman president makes her commencement debut.*

**MEMPHIS, TN (May 14, 2016)** LeMoyne-Owen College's 146th Commencement was unlike any of the 145 that preceded it. It was the first commencement presided over by the College's first woman president, Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller, and FedEx Express Senior Vice President and Chief HR and Diversity Officer Shannon A. Brown added an extra special touch to the ceremony when he announced FedEx Corporation's major gift of \$1 million to support information technology upgrades at LeMoyne-Owen College.

"FedEx Corporation is absolutely delighted to enhance our investment in education through this special grant and endowed scholarship to LeMoyne-Owen College," Brown said. "As a global company based in Memphis, these contributions align with our commitment to technology-smart, innovative solutions that keep the world's market place moving, thriving and connected. Our contributions to LeMoyne-Owen, as well as support we give to the United Negro College Fund and other diverse educational initiatives, are investments in the next generation of leaders."

According to President Andrea Lewis Miller, support from the corporate community is invaluable to LeMoyne-Owen College's continued success and to have such a ringing endorsement from a stellar corporate citizen like FedEx Corporation is a major bonus. "I cannot overstate how much we appreciate FedEx Corporation's support and confidence in our mission," Miller said. "Technology is critical to the support of efficient business processes, as well as effective teaching and learning," Miller added. "Having FedEx Corporation as a partner enables us to move forward with our bold plans to build a strong, state-of-the-art technology infrastructure that provides the finest support to every facet of our organization."

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FEDEX CORP. MAJOR GIFT

LeMoyne-Owen College Chief Information Officer John Ruffin said the College will upgrade networking equipment and campus software to better automate and streamline admissions, financial aid and many other critical business processes for students and the College. “We plan to expand and enhance computer labs, upgrade the wireless infrastructure, lay the foundation for online learning, invest in training for faculty and staff, and improve data gathering, processing, storage and reporting,” Ruffin said.

President Miller added that LeMoyne-Owen College is a sound investment and FedEx Corporation’s gift is just the beginning. “Moving the College forward technologically undergirds our core mission, which is to move individuals forward academically and to success,” President Miller said. “Every student, faculty and staff member will be positively impacted by FedEx’s profound generosity. This is a gift that will keep on giving.”

In addition to the \$1 million major gift for technology, FedEx also has established a \$100,000 endowed scholarship that will provide vital tuition assistance to LOC scholars who maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

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The American Missionary Association founded LeMoyne-Owen College in 1862 to educate freedmen and runaway slaves during the Civil War at the Union Army’s Camp Shiloh in Shiloh, Tennessee. The school relocated to Memphis a year later, but was destroyed during race riots in 1866. Lincoln Chapel, as the school was then known, was rebuilt and reopened in 1867 with 150 students and six teachers. Lincoln Chapter was renamed LeMoyne Normal and Commercial School in honor of benefactor, physician and abolitionist Dr. Francis Julian LeMoyne and relocated to its current site at 807 Walker Ave in 1914. After more than 50 years of steady growth, LeMoyne merged with Owen College in 1968. Today, The LeMoyne-Owen College has a student body of more than 1,000 students and offers 4-year degrees in five disciplines: Business; Education; Fine Arts and Humanities; Natural, Math and Computer Sciences; and, Social and Behavioral and Sciences.

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