

LeMoyne-Owen COLLEGE

LEADERSHIP. OPPORTUNITY. CHANGE.

May 7, 2018 – Plans are underway for the 100th birthday celebration for LeMoyne-Owen College’s legendary former basketball coach Jerry C. Johnson.

The Jerry C. Johnson Foundation, Inc., in partnership with LeMoyne-Owen, will honor Coach Johnson with a series of events June 16-20, including a June 20 banquet at 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn-University of Memphis. New University of Memphis men’s basketball coach Anfernee “Penny” Hardaway will be the keynote speaker.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Gayle Rose and former Memphis mayor Willie W. Herenton are co-chairs for the banquet.

Also, the Foundation, in partnership with the Fitz Casino & Hotel, will hold the Jerry C. Johnson Foundation Golf Tournament June 16 at Tunica National. For information about the tournament call (901) 288-0688.

Coach Johnson will celebrate his 100th birthday June 20. Proceeds from the events will go to LeMoyne-Owen College for scholarships.

Coach Johnson retired in 2005 after coaching 46 years at LeMoyne-Owen College. His accomplishments and honors are numerous.

In his illustrious career, he has to his credit the 1975 NCAA Division III Championship, (the only men's program in Tennessee to earn such an honor), five Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships, five Championship titles in the former Volunteer State Athletic Conference, plus many NCAA regional playoffs.

Johnson was ranked first among active NCAA Division II coaches with 821 wins in 46 seasons and is one of just six NCAA men's basketball coaches who have won more than 800 games.

Coach Johnson was named VSAC "Coach of the Year" four consecutive years (1971 through 1974) and SIAC "Coach of the Year" in 1999, 2000 and 2005.

He was inducted to the Fayetteville State Athletic Hall of Fame and to the SIAC Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995. Each year, the coach of the champions of the SIAC is awarded the Jerry C. Johnson Coach of the Year Trophy.

In 2012, LeMoyne-Owen College renamed their gymnasium in Johnson's honor. The same year, his coaching jersey was retired to the rafters of Bruce/Johnson Hall.

One of Coach Johnson's lasting legacies is the actual men he taught and coached. From his teams, there have come eight NBA players, six high school or junior high school coaches, seven college coaches, four principals, a city councilman and Memphis' first-elected African-American mayor, Dr. Willie W. Herenton.

Even a former player, LOC men's basketball coach William Anderson, currently is leading the Magicians into the future.

For more information about the banquet, please contact LOC's Director of Administrative Services Jesse Chatman at (901) 870-2944, LOC Athletic Director Clint Jackson at (901) 228-2479 or LOC's Robert Newman at (901) 647-2601.

Also, for information about the golf tournament, please contact LOC Assistant Baseball Coach Brian Young at (615) 491-1284 or coach Anderson at (901) 270-7619.

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