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LeMoyne-Owen College Hosts National Celebrities and HBCU Royalty from Across the Nation July 12-15

Actress Tonea Stewart of In the Heat of the Night and A Time to Kill fame, R&B artist Kenny Lattimore, and Black Girls Rock founder Beverly Bond are among the special guests to participate in the National HBCU Queens and Kings Leadership Conference.

Memphis, TN (June 26, 2012) – Royalty from more than 30 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are set to arrive in Memphis for four days of intense training at the 11th annual Leadership Conference for Queens and Kings' Konnection sponsored by Verizon at The Peabody Hotel. Award-winning actress Tonea Stewart, international R&B artist Kenny Lattimore, Black Girls Rock founder Beverly Bond, national authors, CEOs, and motivational speakers will inspire and provide vital leadership advice.

HBCU queens and kings not only serve as their school's official ambassadors, but also are elected campus officials who play a vital leadership role in student-lead activities and initiatives.

"Persons who find themselves in such positions have a great responsibility on their college and universities campuses," said native Memphian Dale Williams, former Miss Tennessee State University (1992-93) and founder and CEO of Leadership for Queens, the coordinating agency for the annual conference. "Many are expected to be actively involved in recruitment, community and campus activities," Williams added. "Therefore, this conference is not only an important opportunity to prepare them to serve, but it also helps the kings and queens understand their potential impact in their communities and on the image of HBCU's overall."

LeMoyne-Owen College is proud to host the conference's much-anticipated luncheon July 14 where Tonea Stewart will deliver the keynote address. "LeMoyne-Owen College is quite honored to be selected to host the conference for the second consecutive year," Ruby Hardy Minter said. Minter is a LeMoyne-Owen English professor and advisor for The Royal Connection Leadership Organization on campus where it is enjoying a renaissance. "The conference has served as a catalyst for the continued revitalization of campus royalty leadership," Minter added. "More students are excited about serving."

Campus royalty are elected to serve a one-year term that spans the fall and spring semesters. LeMoyne-Owen's newly elected 2012/2013 king and queen are Fabian Kasonga of Zimbabwe and Ayeisha Cole of Memphis. Kasonga, a junior studying business, maintains a 4.0 GPA. Cole is in her senior year studying social science with a 3.0 GPA.

For more information about the conference, go online to www.hbcukingsandqueens.com or call Dale Williams at (443) 783-8702.