



NEWS:

CUNY College named for Medgar Evers

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Henry D. Paley, *Director of University Relations*

FOR RELEASE:

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One of the newest colleges of the City University of New York, to open next fall in central Brooklyn, has been named Medgar Evers College in memory of the courageous civil rights leader who was assassinated in Mississippi in 1963.

The naming of the college came in an announcement made by the college's Community Council which is composed of community leaders, elected representatives of the mid-Brooklyn area, and members of the Board of Higher Education, trustees of CUNY. The six elected officials of the Council are Assemblyman Bertram L. Baker, U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm, Assemblyman Thomas R. Fortune, State Senator Waldaba Stewart, City Councilman William C. Thompson, and Assemblyman Samuel D. Wright.

Representing the community on the committee were:

John Enoch, acting chairman; Mrs. Clara E. Wade, acting secretary; Mrs. Beryl Williams; Randall M. Coppin; Mrs. Louise E. Bolling; Norman Johnson; the Reverend Ernest J. Middleton; Mrs. Ella Sease; Mrs. Louise Clover; Harold Jacobs; Cesar Quinones; the Reverend Sandy Ray; Miss Thais Wilson; Eldon A. McIntyre, Jr; George Harvey; Herman D. Flowers; Wayne Belgrave.

Dr. Richard Trent, president of the new college, said, "I am pleased that we have taken another step toward making our college a reality. When Medgar Evers College opens its doors, we hope to offer young people of New York City

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an opportunity to gain a relevant educational experience which should prepare them to serve our community with the same intelligence, dedication and zeal

Medgar Evers displayed during his outstanding career. We welcome the challenge to continue our work with the people of mid-Brooklyn and the City of New York toward achieving these goals."

The creation of the experimental college was announced on February 2, 1968. It was conceived as a community-related professional and career-oriented college. Both four-and two-year degrees will be offered, and areas of specialization will include educational development as well as professional and paraprofessional degree programs in commercial, technological and educational fields.

Dr. Trent was appointed on March 3, 1970 after a two-year search conducted by the City University in consultation with community groups and elected local leaders. The 45-year old president was formerly director of the Brooklyn College Educational Opportunity Program, a special college entry program for high school graduates lacking full academic credentials for normal college admission.

John Enoch, acting chairman of the college's broadly-based Community Council which named the new college said, "The Medgar Evers College, reflecting the image of the martyred young leader who dedicated his life to the cause of individual freedom, dignity and personal fulfillment will add another pillar of strength to the growing educational, economic, cultural and social foundations of the central Brooklyn community and New York City.

Mrs. Medgar Evers, who now lives with her three children in Claremont, California, is expected to attend the announcement ceremonies. "My husband

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would be deeply gratified," she said, "to know that his life played some part in molding the plans and aspirations for this exciting new venture.

"The naming of the college for Medgar Evers helps to confirm that my husband's dedication to the cause of human equality had meaning to others and will be carried on for generations to come."

A biographical sketch of Medgar Evers is attached.

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