



For Immediate Release

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Terry Campus Explores Contributions of Historic African Americans

DOVER- Students and staff at Delaware Technical & Community College's Terry Campus now have a deeper understanding of how African Americans have impacted the history of Delaware. On Feb. 21, Representative Donald A. Blakey described specific African American men and women that made an imprint on the history of Delaware from the eighteenth century to the twentieth as part of the campus's celebration of Black History Month.

He began the presentation discussing a slave owned by John Dickenson in the eighteenth century known only as "Dinah." It is noteworthy that a woman's specific name was even mentioned in historical records. Her name sprinkled among historic texts makes those who study that time wonder what Dinah's and other slave's lives were like in that time. Gloria Henry from the Dickinson Plantation came to speak earlier in the month to Terry Campus about what life would be like for Dinah and other Delaware slaves.

Blakey went on to describe Samuel D. Burris, a free African American who lived during the nineteenth century. As a member of the Underground Railroad, Burris helped slaves travel out of Maryland and into the Middletown area. He was then tried and

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convicted with aiding slaves to freedom. Burris was then sold as a slave, though the buyer, Isaac A. Flint, bought him with “abolition gold” and set him free.

Louis Redding, one of five defendants in *Brown v. Board of Education*, filed multiple suits against the segregation of Delaware schools and realized desegregation by 1959. Dr. Jerome H. Holland, Delaware State University president from 1953-1959, was the first African American chairman of the American Red Cross in 1979 and was appointed as ambassador of Sweden by President Richard M. Nixon from 1970-1972.

Dr. Luna I. Mishoe, Delaware State University president from 1960-1987, developed the math and science programs at the university into what they are today. An accomplished scholar to the core, Dr. Mishoe’s many academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science Degree in mathematics and chemistry from Allen University, Master of Science Degree in mathematics and physics, University of Michigan, Doctor of Philosophy in mathematics, New York University, post doctoral research in mathematics at Oxford University, Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

After an 18 year stint as a Kent County Levy Court commissioner, Representative Blakey himself has made history as the first African American to represent the 34th Delaware district in the state General Assembly, which includes Kent County. Currently at Delaware State University, Dr. Blakey teaches courses in literature, meteorology, and the African language of Swahili.

For more information about upcoming events at Delaware Technical & Community College, Terry Campus, call the Office of the Dean of Student Services at 302-857-1000.

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