

Simmons College of Kentucky wins accreditation

Written by Yvonne Coleman Bach, Special to the NNPA from the Louisville Defender
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LOUISVILLE – Simmons College has become accredited as the first private Historically Black College and University in Kentucky and is only the second HBCU in the state, along with Kentucky State University, a public institution.

Simmons has just learned that it has been accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

"Simply put, accreditation is value," explained President Kevin Cosby. "It is proof that Simmons has met national standards necessary to produce graduates who are prepared to enter into selected professions." He explained, "The accreditation of Simmons College of Kentucky will have a ripple effect throughout west Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is the most monumental achievement, by African Americans, to take place in the state in the last 100 years."

Most HBCUs were founded in the post-Civil War era, when Blacks were not allowed to attend college with Whites. Today, many private HBCUs are struggling to remain keep their doors open. Last summer, St. Paul's College, a private Black institution in Lawrenceville, Va., ceased operating after being in existence since 1888. Its 35 buildings and 183 acres have been put up for public auction.

Simmons College sees itself in the opposite trajectory and will be a vital force for the community it serves.

Rev. F. Bruce Williams, chair of Simmons' Board of Trustees, said the goal of the college is to "teach the unteachable and reach the unreachable."

And there are plenty of needy people to reach.

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