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Event Details: Saturday, October 25 – Texas Southern University, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston



## **TEACHING HOUSTON ABOUT AFRICA: A Workshop for Educators**

HOUSTON, TX –October 21, 2008

Houston is changing attitudes on Africa, starting in the classroom.

Experts from around the world will speak to Houston teachers about the new news from Africa at a professional development workshop in Phase Two of *Teach Africa* on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Teach Africa* in Houston is a collaboration of the World Affairs Council of Houston, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership and The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa for a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Africa-education program. Other collaborators for this phase of *Teach Africa* in Houston include Texas State University and The World Bank.

His Excellency Kailash Ruhee, Ambassador of Mauritius to the United States and Obiageli “Oby” Ezekwesili, The World Bank’s Vice President for the Africa Region will share with Houston educators their passion for and commitment to Africa. Oby Ezekwesili is also a former Minister of Education in Nigeria.

Other speakers will include Dr. Kenneth Vickery, award-winning instructor from North Carolina State University; Dr. Susan Rasmussen of University of Houston, and General Ron Sconyers of Physicians for Peace.

The workshop will be held at Texas Southern University’s Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. Participating TSU professors include Dr. Zuberi Mwamba of Tanzania, Dr. Ethiopia Keleta, Dr. Emlyn Norman, and Dr. Greg Maddox.

Ambassador Faida Mitifu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo spoke at the *Teach Africa* launch in Houston this past June and acknowledged the importance of Africa-centered curriculum in our schools and stated that, “knowing Africa is a great opportunity.”

It is a multiphase program designed to provide educators with the background and tools needed to raise student interest in Africa through a highly engaging, multidisciplinary approach. The

program offers teachers and students access to institutions and individuals—from diplomats and *Africanists* to performing artists—who can share their experiences and views on Africa.

The program was initially launched in June this year with a dinner for civic leaders like Senator Rodney Ellis, school board members, principals and program partners.

Phase Two of *Teach Africa* comprises the October 25<sup>th</sup> professional development workshop. Phase Three will directly engage 1,000 students on African issues in a day-long forum next March. *Teach Africa* was first launched by The Africa Society in 2002 in Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

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**Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership** is a nonprofit organization that is committed to using the positive power of video to provide information and support community development in under-resourced schools and communities around the world.

**The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa** is a non-profit that engages and educates Americans about Africa and creates, through partnerships, a better understanding of its peoples, diverse cultures, histories, and economies. For more information visit [www.africasummit.org](http://www.africasummit.org).

**The World Bank** is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The Bank is composed of two institutions owned by 185 member countries—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). For more information please visit [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

**Texas Southern University** is one of the nation’s largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities with an impressive array of undergraduate and graduate programs, a diverse faculty, and 80-plus student organizations. TSU has served as a cornerstone for developing the greatest potential in leaders from various socio-economic, cultural, and racial backgrounds.

The **World Affairs Council of Houston** presents all sides of current global issues, promotes better understanding of international relations and contributes to national and international policy debates. Membership is open to the public. For more information visit [www.wachouston.org](http://www.wachouston.org).