



BROWN
Office of Institutional
Equity and Diversity

Brown-Tougaloo Partnership Annual Report

Academic Year 2019-20

January 2021

Brown-Tougaloo Partnership

2020 Annual Report

Introduction

The Brown University – Tougaloo College Partnership (BTP) was formalized on May 18, 1964 — the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. With the issues of Civil Rights confronting both institutions, they stepped into a relationship that has remained a unique collaborative venture that engages the culture and histories of these two distinctive institutions. The BTP is designed to enrich both campuses through academic and cultural exchanges for students and faculty, collaborative research ventures, and joint administrative initiatives. Through the various programs and projects, over 500 students, staff and faculty have participated in the BTP since its inception. This report reviews the goals of the partnership, progress to date, and highlights news from the 2019-2020 academic year. A full listing of the current programs and partners can be found at Tougaloo.Brown.edu.

Goals

The partnership is building on the success of past years to reinvigorate existing programs and launch new initiatives in the next three years. At the center of this work is a strategic infrastructure that is intended to create seamless communications for BTP partners, strengthen recruiting and marketing for programs, and measure the success of the partnership and its programs. In the Fall of 2019, the BTP committed to achieving the four goals listed below by completing a series of actions by December 2022 (Appendix A).

Goal 1. Grow the undergraduate semester exchanges on both campuses through ambassador programs, targeted marketing efforts, and improved on-campus support.

Goal 2. Develop and enhance application and assessment tools for all BTP initiatives to better monitor outcomes and progress.

Goal 3. Enhance the partnership's digital communications through an updated website, social media presence, and regular communication with participants.

Goal 4. Strengthen the partnership through graduate student, staff and faculty exchanges to support career development.

Progress Update

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership Leadership Team worked toward goals 1-3. Despite the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was still progress in these areas. An update on each of these strategic priorities is found below.

Goal 1. Grow the undergraduate semester exchanges on both campuses through ambassador programs, targeted marketing efforts, and improved on-campus support.

In prior years, Tougaloo students noted that they would benefit from increased support when transitioning into the Brown community. To revitalize this support, Nirva LaFortune, the Program Manager and advisor for BTP students within The College at Brown University, reconceived an orientation process designed to introduce the exchange students to the campus, connect them to

resources including the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life as well as University Health Services, and provide them with an opportunity to build relationships with Black faculty and staff who could serve as mentors during their time at Brown. The College also developed a resource guide that included a list of Black student groups, major student events, local churches, restaurants, and other information about Brown and the Providence community. In addition to a more structured introduction to the campus, the students also met regularly with the program manager to discuss their academic and extracurricular experiences throughout the semester. These meetings created opportunities for the students to learn about additional resources that were available on campus as specific needs arose.

Brown University hosted four undergraduate exchange students from Tougaloo College for the Spring 2020 semester. They began the semester on campus and completed their coursework remotely when Brown closed the campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. On an exit survey disseminated at the end of the semester, the students reported that they had an overall positive experience, rating the semester an average of 4.5 out of 5. All of the students reported a greater sense of independence and self-confidence, an increased ability to adapt and make friends, and a broadened perspective after having participated in the exchange.

Goal 2. Develop and enhance application and assessment tools for all BTP initiatives to better monitor outcomes and progress.

One of the key new initiatives of the partnership will be the launch of The Conversation. The Conversation is a research and discussion-based collaborative between Brown University, Tougaloo College and the University of New Mexico School of Law. At the core of this initiative will be a convening of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty from each of the institutions for discussions around issues of race, justice and the law. This initiative is funded by a generous gift from Brown-Tougaloo Council member, Michael Gross '64, P'93 P'05 and his wife Andrea Gross.

A program plan and application and selection process were developed in the Fall of 2019 in preparation to launch the program in the summer of 2020; however, it was postponed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will be reimagined as a virtual initiative to take place in the summer of 2021 with an in-person component will be added when campus travel restrictions have been lifted and it is safe to do so.

Goal 3. Enhance the partnership's digital communications through an updated website, social media presence, and regular communication with participants.

In an effort to raise the digital profile of the partnership, a new website (<https://tougaloo.brown.edu/>) for the partnership was developed. This website features shared branding from both institutions, an updated program partner directory, and user-friendly navigation features. A list of active partnership programs can be found on the new site.

News and Highlights

New Leadership at Tougaloo College

In the fall of 2019, Tougaloo College welcomed Dr. Carmen J. Walters as their 14th President. Dr. Walters addressed the Council in the Fall 2019 meeting held in conjunction with Tougaloo College's Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration.

Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan Endowed Scholarship

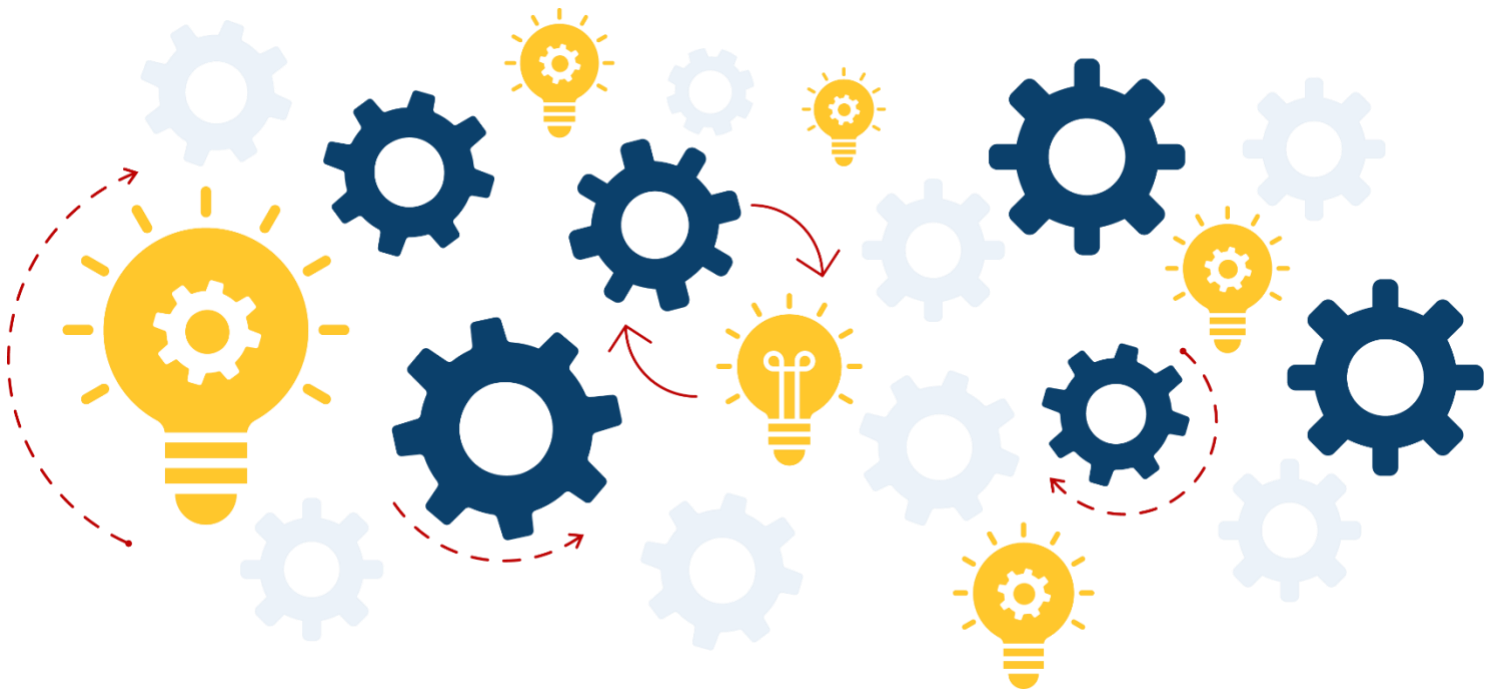
George Wallerstein '51, GP'16, a lifetime member of Brown's Advisory Council on Relations with Tougaloo College, along with his wife Julie Lutz, presented Tougaloo College with a \$4 million gift to endow the Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan Scholarship in honor of the immediate past President of Tougaloo College.

Health Equity Scholars Program

In summer of 2020, the Brown University School of Public Health announced the Health Equity Scholars program, which was developed in collaboration with Tougaloo College. The goal of the program is to bring more diverse voices into the public health profession, shift the makeup of public health leadership, and play a role in addressing racism as a public health problem. The Scholars program will allow a cohort of Tougaloo students or recent Tougaloo alumni to receive an Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree from Brown's School of Public Health with supplemental mentoring and training in leadership. The program will admit up to five scholars in the MPH program annually. The Scholars program includes a full-tuition scholarship and internships focused on training the next generation of public health leaders.

Conclusion

The 2019-2020 academic year presented unforeseen challenges brought by a global pandemic coupled with a national reckoning with racial injustice. The Brown-Tougaloo Partnership continued to provide opportunities for an exchange of culture, scholarship, and ideas through its initiatives and responded to this moment with a joint vision for a better future. As we continue this work, we remain enthusiastic about the promise of the partnership and look forward to strengthening the connections between the campus communities.



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