

For Immediate Release  
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Talladega College senior Philip Thompson receives top honors from White House and Recognition during Washington D.C. Ceremony



Talladega, AL (September 17, 2018) – Talladega College senior Philip Thompson, a criminal justice major from Chicago, IL and Louisville, KY, has been named a 2018 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Competitiveness Scholars program recognizes and honors current HBCU students who are successfully preparing to compete for top opportunities that improve standards of living in their communities.

Competitiveness Scholars assembled September 16-18 in Washington D.C. for HBCU Competitiveness: Aligning Institutional Missions with America's Priorities, a three-day gathering held during the 2018 National HBCU Week Conference. Competitiveness Scholars received recognition for their successes and participated in workshops designed to improve leadership and encourage ongoing personal and professional development while also exploring areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

“I am currently an intern with Dortch Law Offices. After I complete my undergraduate degree, I plan to go to law school,” Philip said. “I am honored and excited to be named a Competitiveness Scholar.”

Philip is a member of the Presidential Honor Society; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc; the American Criminal Justice Association-Lambda Alpha Epsilon; the Crimson Ambassadors; and the Black Gentlemen Coalition. He served as the 2017-2018 Vice President of the Student Government Association and he is currently an intern with Dortch Law Offices.

Reading to elementary school students, mentoring high school students and participating in a recent campus cleanup drive are a few of the many ways in which Philip has sought to make a difference on and off campus.

During their one-year term, 63 Competitiveness Scholars representing 54 HBCUs will learn and share practices that foster individual and HBCU competitiveness. Program goals include strengthening the scholars' prospects for career and life success.

### **About Talladega College**

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is the home of the renowned Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals, which received rave reviews from the *New York Times* during a three-year, eight-city tour.