

STUDENT-FACULTY-COMMUNITY COALITION TO SAVE

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

PRESS RELEASE

MAY 6, 1982

Today, Thursday, May 6, 1982 is a DAY OF SOLIDARITY in support of the struggle to oust Richard Trent as President of Medgar Evers College and to save our school as a progressive institution of higher learning. We, therefore, call upon all students, faculty, and members of the New York community to stand with those who have resolved to remain in Dr. Trent's office until he resigns.

The students who are currently sitting in the halls and offices of the President are expressing the overwhelming majority sentiment at the college, that Dr. Trent and his administration have failed to bring about the growth and development of Medgar Evers College. His unresponsiveness to the student, faculty, alumni and community for the 12 years of his presidency, particularly during the recent crisis has consolidated all aspects of the college community in demanding his immediate resignation. On Monday, May 3, 1982, the Medgar Evers College Alumni Association voted to support the student actions to save Medgar Evers College.

After many unsuccessful efforts to present this issue to the Board of Trustees and to the central administration of CUNY, we have taken our concerns to our elected officials. This afternoon, May 6, 1982 at 4:30 PM, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, State Senator Vander Beatty, Assemblyman Al Vann, Assemblyman Roger Green, Deputy Borough President Ed Townes, State Senator Major Owens, Councilman Enoch Williams and others will meet the CUNY Board of Trustees to effect the resignation of Richard Trent.

Medgar Evers College was created by the community and for the community as a 4 year institution of higher learning committed to the task of upgrading the lives of the residents of Central Brooklyn, one of the largest and most diverse Black communities in the world. The college was created and named in the spirit and vision of the slain Mississippi civil rights leader, Medgar Evers. His dreams of yesterday are our vision of today and our mission of tomorrow.

This DAY OF SOLIDARITY represents change and our resolve to continue the vigor of our struggle to achieve the college's mission in providing quality education. Only one man, Richard Trent, heretofore, supported by CUNY Board of Trustees, stands in our way and we shall not be moved until he is removed. We, however, recognize that Dr. Trent's resignation is only the first step in renewing the college's mission.

At this time, Dr. Trent's resignation is only a matter of when and how, and therefore, we are actively planning the remaining phases of transition: the search for new leadership; the improvement of educational programs and the actualization of the original mission and mandate of the college -- to serve the community.

Tomorrow morning, Friday, May 7 at 9:30 AM in Brooklyn Supreme Court, Judge Bellard will give his decision on the injunction to remove students who have been peacefully sitting in for the last 16 days. Therefore, this DAY OF SOLIDARITY is also one in which students, faculty, community and alumni are unified in our efforts to protect and defend those who are struggling on the frontline to accomplish the objective of ousting Richard Trent and making Medgar Evers' dream a living reality.

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