

April 6, 2009

District attorney speaks at ASU Founder's Day Convocation

Dougherty County District Attorney Greg Edwards said the founding vision of historically black colleges and universities is still applicable today.

"University principles of knowledge can be achieved at any institution," he said. "HBCUs were not built to put up walls, but they were built to tear them down."

Edwards was the keynote speaker at the Albany State University Founder's Day Convocation held Friday, April 3, in the HPER Gymnasium.

An ASU alumnus, Edwards is the first African-American district attorney for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit.

Edwards started off his speech with a brief history of Albany State. He elaborated on the history dating back to the founding of the institution. In retracing ASU's history, Edwards spoke of the changes in the universities' presidents as well as the institution's name changes.

His message was about the importance of HBCUs. "HBCUs help disadvantaged students and strengthen them in a positive direction," Edwards said.

He also spoke of his experiences with young people who committed crimes. He stated that he would look at them and think, "What if they channeled that energy in a positive direction? They could be the next African-American leader."

He also reminded the audience in the HPER gymnasium that HBCUs still have an important role.

"HBCUs are just as important to our future as they are to our past," Edwards said. As a second-generation alumnus, he encouraged audience members to focus on the mission of HBCUs.

"In short, despite all obstacles and outside struggles, Albany State University works," Edwards said.



Photo caption: Dougherty County District Attorney Greg Edwards talks about the importance of HBCUs during the Founder's Day Convocation held Friday in the HPER Gymnasium.