

Baltimore Businessman Makes Generous Donation to UMES' PGA Golf Management Program

By Mitra Zolfaghari

PRINCESS ANNE, Md.- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore announced Wednesday it will now offer four full-ride scholarships to students in its golf management program, thanks to a generous half-million dollar donation from Baltimore businessman, Carnelious Jones.

Jones said he hopes the contribution to the program will motivate minorities and women to pursue careers in the golf industry. The scholarships will be named after accomplished African-American golfers James Black, Renee Powell, Calvin Peete and the late Ann Gregory.

Kimberly Dumpson, who worked with Jones to establish the scholarships, believes that the donation will transform UMES' PGA golf management coursework to provide much needed resources to recruit and motivate students to join the program.

UMES is one of the 20 higher education institutions in the U.S. that offers coursework provided by the PGA of America. The university is the only historically black institution with the undergraduate program that combines instruction in how to play professional-level golf with hospitality industry training.

UMES' President Juliette B. Bell believes that Jones' donation is an "extraordinarily generous gift."

Bell said that the university looks forward to make the educational opportunities available to those who deserve and will benefit by it.

Jones, a petroleum wholesaler, is part of a movement working to diversify golf. He asked that the scholarships funded by his gift be named in honor of four golfers he considers pioneers.

Jones believes the PGA program all about opportunity and access.

"The University of Maryland Eastern Shore seems like the natural place where young people can come and earn a degree and learn what it takes to be involved in the business of golf."