

African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 10
Issue 1 *March 2007*

Article 19

3-1-2007

Slavery and Justice Program at Brown University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan>

Recommended Citation

(2007) "Slavery and Justice Program at Brown University," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol10/iss1/19>

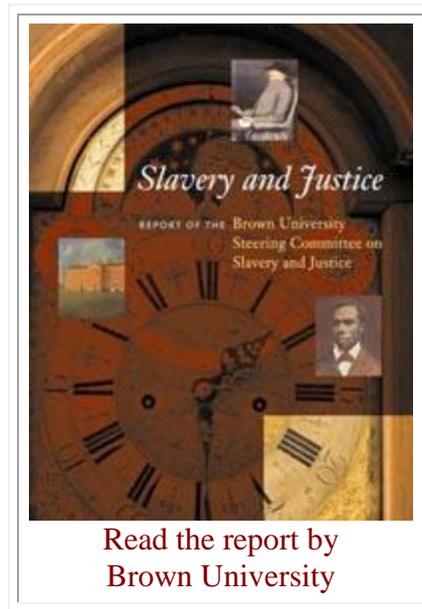
This Announcement is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

Slavery and Justice Program at Brown University

Press Release, Brown University, February 24, 2007.

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/2006-07/06-107.html.

Providence, Rhode Island -- Brown University President Ruth J. Simmons today announced a series of major new commitments to students in Providence public schools. These commitments are inspired in part by the report of the University's Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice. Simmons released the University's response to that report this morning.



The University's new commitments to Providence Schools include:

- A \$10-million endowment to create The Fund for the Education of the Children of Providence. That endowment, which the University will begin raising immediately, will be invested within the University's own endowment. The Brown Corporation will oversee annual expenditures from the fund, and those annual expenditures will be allocated by the University with input from the superintendent of Providence schools. A \$10-million endowment could provide as much as \$500,000 in the first year, with the amount growing as the principal increases.
- As many as 10 new Urban Education Fellows will be available for service in Providence-area schools each year. Urban Education Fellows are graduate students who agree to serve at least three years in Providence-area schools after earning either a Master of Arts in Teaching or a Master of Arts in urban education policy at Brown. Urban Education Fellows will have their tuition paid by the University.

"One of the clearest messages in the *Slavery and Justice Report* is that institutions of higher education must take a greater interest in the health of their local communities, especially Kindergarten through 12th-grade education," Simmons said. "Lack of access to a good education, particularly for urban schoolchildren, is one of the most pervasive and pernicious social problems of our time. Colleges and universities are uniquely able to improve the quality of urban schools. Brown is committed to undertaking that work."

The *Slavery and Justice Report*, a three-year research and public affairs project released by the University last fall, outlines in considerable detail the history of slavery and slave-trading in Rhode Island and elsewhere in New England. It found that some of the University's early benefactors were involved in the slave trade, and that the University benefited from their involvement.

In addition to the new commitments to Providence public schools, Simmons outlined several other provisions in the University's response:

- **A suitable memorial. The University will ask city and state officials to join it in forming a commission to determine how the history of the slave trade in Rhode Island might best be acknowledged in a memorial.**
- **Distribution and presentation of information. The University will distribute the report and will develop a schedule of exhibitions to make important materials more readily available. The report itself will remain on the University's Web site (www.brown.edu/slaveryjustice), and printed copies will also be made available.**
- **Academic initiatives. The University will appoint a committee of experts to explore how best to carry out a major research and teaching initiative on issues of slavery and justice, building on resources in its academic departments and centers. The University will also appoint a team of outside experts to recommend how it might strengthen its Department of Africana Studies.**
- **Continuing academic partnerships. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Brown began providing technical assistance to a number of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's). That program proved to be of exceptional benefit to both Brown and its HBCU partners; the University will expand this program to include additional institutions. The University will also strengthen and expand its exchange program with Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., a program that has existed since the mid-1960s.**

Finally, Brown University will continue to support all its existing programs for the benefit of Providence public schools, including administrative support for the superintendent's office, mentoring and tutoring programs, professional development for teachers, funds for equipment and other efforts.

A related news article about Brown University's *Slavery and Justice Report* was included in the December 2006 issue of this Newsletter.