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Wendy Rodriguez Quinceanera
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Hickman's Black Dallas
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Janette Moore Alto ISD teacher ready for new school

Patricia Russell-McCloud
to speak at Jarvis"Opening
Convocation



One of America's most renowned motivational speakers, Patricia Russell-McCloud, will serve as speaker for the President's Opening Convocation at Jarvis Christian College on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 11:00AM at the Smith-Howard Chapel. Each year she speaks to more than 200,000 people in private and public organizations in the US and internationally. She encourages listeners to surmount every obstacle that stands between them andthe possible. Her client list includes AARP, National Association of Women Business Owners, AT&T, Women's Food Service Forum, Wal-Mart and Proctor & Gamble.

Dr. McCloud earned her Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law. The President's Opening Convocation is a traditional event that formally opens the academic year for Jarvis. The event is open to the public.

Free Marriage Education Classes Available Statewide cut License Fee

A new state law, which took effect Sept. 1, encourages couples to attend free marriage education classes before taking the plunge. Couples who complete the skills-based course will also pay less for their marriage license.

House Bill 2685 increases the marriage license fee to \$60. However, the fee will be waived for couples who complete an eight-hour premarital class, and those couples can forgo the 72-hour waiting period to get married. Counties may continue to charge up to \$12 in local fees for a marriage license.

The state's healthy marriage initiative, called "Twogether in Texas," promotes free, skills-based marriage education classes and provides couples – both married and those contemplating marriage – with the tools they need to manage the challenges inherent in relationships. Classes include eight hours of training focusing on communication skills, conflict resolution and other elements of a healthy marriage.

"We hope to empower couples with a new skill set; a marriage skill set based on conflict resolution and communication," said Jeff Johnson of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which is responsible for setting up

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