



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John G. Riley Center/Museum Commemorates the 50-Year Anniversary of the Signing of the 1964 National Civil Rights Act

TALLAHASSEE – On **Tuesday, July 1, 2014** from **5:30 pm** to **7:30 pm**, the John G. Riley Center/Museum will be hosting an *Equal Educational Opportunity* panel discussion in commemoration of the 50-Year Anniversary of the July 2, 1964 signing of the Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The engaging discussion will feature representatives from the Leon County Schools, FSU College of Law, current and former educators as well as those persons personally impacted by the 1954 Supreme Court, *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, a ruling that many believe launched the modern civil rights movement.

In many ways, the drive to end segregated education and to put African American and white children in the same classrooms was the most radical and potentially far-reaching aspect of the civil rights movement. Such change was meant to alter the attitudes and socialization of children – beginning at the youngest ages – as well as end the inequality inherent in all “separate but equal” facilities, whether they were drinking fountains, public accommodations or the schools, according to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Coalition, a national civil and human rights think-tank.

Admission is free to the public and promises to be a lively and very informative dialogue. This is a great way to gain insight on the current state of educational equality as well as a historic celebration of the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. May 17th marked the 60-year Anniversary of that historic Supreme Court ruling.

Tours of the Riley Museum’s nationally acclaimed *They Led the Way* exhibit, which chronicles the first 8 students to integrate Leon County Schools in 1963, will also be available from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The panel discussion will begin at 6:00 p.m. and be held in the John G. Riley Museum’s new Visitors Center annex, located at 419 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301.

The John G. Riley Center/Museum is open six days a week for individual/small group tours. Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

For more information on this event or the museum’s current exhibits and living history presentations, please contact the Riley Museum staff at **(850) 681-7881** or email info@rileymuseum.org.