

S.C. college positions as black think tank

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Henry Tisdale wants to attract to the new institute.

The idea is to hire "integration babies" - those who have never attended segregated schools or faced racial barriers in entering the military or other fields. He hopes the group of scholars in their 30s will excel in the fields of economics, history, politics, lan-

guage and education and will shape the institute for decades to come.

Miller sees openness to new ways of examining history among younger scholars that older black intellectuals may lack.

"Maybe those people closest to the history are not the ones best suited to write about it and comment on it," Miller

said. "We think it's attractive to bring in young Turks who are ready to make their mark."

Bernard Powers, who teaches history at the College of Charleston, said the new institute should become a good fit with other institutes in the state and region.

"I'm not familiar with another institute with a focus

on African-Americans in the South," Powers said. "This institute could be an important resource for all the others."

"Clafin is as good a place as any for it, and it is certainly needed in the state."

Miller said he's not sure where the money for the institute will come from but Tisdale has said he is prepared to spend "whatever it takes" to make it a success.

Don Gordon, director of the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University in Greenville, said the Clafin institute should be welcomed by South Carolina's academic community for its focus on an understudied part of the state's history.

Clafin's goals will complement the work being done at his and other institutes, Gordon said.

The institute is named for a

black leader who was appointed to the state Supreme Court during Reconstruction.

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Charlotte
Post**

Papers shed light on life and times

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Johnson C. Smith University. Ritualistic services will start at 10:30 a.m., the celebration of life will begin at 12 p.m.

"If you didn't know anything about Mr. Stroud, you would come to recognize him as a generous man who took education seriously and was very involved in the African American community," said Katie McCormick, UNCC's reference archivist. "And he was very respected. You would get a sense of a man very devoted to his community."

Mr. Stroud, who graduated Second Ward High School, spent 32 years as a public school educator, served in a segregated Army in World War II. He found little had changed stateside when he was discharged.

"It was very upsetting to realize you have given precious time of your life for supposed freedom in a country that was still segregated," he told historian Dan Morrill of UNC Charlotte for an oral history of Charlotte.

Mr. Stroud, a 1942 Johnson C. Smith University graduate, married wife Daisy two years later and raised three children. He was principal at York Road Junior High School and West Charlotte High when CMS was evolving from segregated campuses. The UNCC documents include handbooks for teachers and staff at both schools, as well as newsletters.

"A lot of his papers repre-

sent his work as an educator and principal," McCormick said. "That was a really rich history of what was happening at York Road in the 1950s and '60s."

Mr. Stroud was also active in social circles, as his personal effects reveal. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity for 67 years and the Swank Social Club, originally made up of Second Ward students, for more than

70. He also compiled newspaper articles and programs from community meetings, school reunions and funerals of teachers and staff he worked with.

"There's great stuff from his social involvement," McCormick said. "One of the really admirable things about Mr. Stroud was he made a point of going to the funerals of teachers and staff members."



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