

DENZEL WASHINGTON PORTRAYS LINCOLN UNIVERSITY GRAD IN UPCOMING MOVIE,
"THE GREAT DEBATERS"

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PA ~ Two-time Oscar winner Denzel Washington portrays Lincoln University graduate Melvin B. Tolson in "The Great Debaters," a film that depicts Tolson's unerring mentorship and will hit theaters on Dec. 25.

Tolson, who graduated with honors from Lincoln University in 1924, coached a debating team to a national championship when the nation was intensely segregated. Aside from his career as debating team coach, Tolson became a distinguished author, poet, college professor and public servant.

"I'm very pleased that Tolson is getting recognition for his amazing feats," said Dr. Ivory V. Nelson, president of Lincoln University. "He is another in a long list of Lincoln graduates who have made their mark on history."

The movie is the product of the collaboration of two giants in the industry. Washington also directs the movie and Oprah Winfrey is its producer.

The movie, nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Drama, focuses on the debaters from historically black Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. It highlights the instrumental role Tolson played in preparing the debaters for their stunning victory over the University of Southern California for the national championship.

Tolson's biography indicates that he was born in Moberly, Mo. and taught at Wiley College from 1924 to 1947. He moved to Langston University of Oklahoma, where he also had a stint as a three-term mayor of the city.

For more: <http://www.lincoln.edu/marketing/pr/news121307.html>