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TONI MORRISON, HONORARY CHAIR OF
2010 NATIONAL BLACK WRITERS CONFERENCE AT
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY

NATIONAL- The Center for Black Literature (CBL) at Medgar Evers College is pleased to announce that Nobel Prize winning author, Toni Morrison will be Honorary Chair for the Tenth National Black Writers Conference (NBWC) at Medgar Evers College, March 26 – 28, 2010. The conference, to be held on the Medgar Evers College campus in Brooklyn, NY, will feature discussions, youth workshops, talkshops, author readings and signings.

The theme of the Conference, *And Then We Heard the Thunder: Black Writers Reconstructing Memories and Lighting the Way* is taken from the title of John Oliver Killens' novel on World War II. It draws upon the concepts of thunder, memory and light as a metaphor for both the historical representation of the literature of Black writers and the representation of new and future directions for contemporary and emerging literary voices.

Toni Morrison is the author of over 16 works of fiction and non fiction. Her works are known for their critical interrogations of American's past and its relations with Blacks in American culture. The New York Times has named her most recent novel, *A Mercy*, one of the 10 most notable books of 2008. Dr. Brenda Greene, Executive Director of the CBL says, "Toni Morrison is a living legacy in American and African American literature and we are honored that she has agreed to be a part of this conference."

The National Black Writers Conferences, inspired by the late John Oliver Killens, have been held at Medgar Evers College since 1986. Conference themes have focused on stereotypes in black literature, the direction of black literature, the renaissance in black literature, the impact of black literature on society, literature as access, and expanding conversations on race, history, identity, and genre.