

UTEP

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**NEWS
RELEASE**

Basketball Favorite Charles Brown Honored As Gold Nugget of UTEP's College of Education

When Charles Brown was recruited to play for the Texas Western College (now UTEP) basketball team in 1956, he was the first African-American basketball player at a mainstream college or university in the Southern United States.

The following year, Brown became captain of the Miners basketball team and was named "Most Valuable Basketball Player" in the border conference.

Brown became known as the "Jackie Robinson" of Southern intercollegiate sports and his desire and perseverance to play basketball opened the door for other black athletes. Ten years after Brown took his place on the college basketball court, TWC won the NCAA National Championship with five black starters.

UTEP's College of Liberal Arts will honor one of its most distinguished sons at the Gold Nugget reception 1pm to 9pm, Thursday, Oct. 7, at the Wise Family Theatre, Fox Fine Arts Center, Second Floor.

Brown received a bachelor's degree in physical education from UTEP in 1959 and a master's degree in educational administration from San Francisco State University. In El Paso, he was a social studies and physical education teacher at Jefferson High School where he coached the intermediate basketball team. Brown went on to enjoy a long and successful career as an educator in the San Francisco School District.

In 1990, Brown was selected for the "All-time Fan Favorite" basketball team by UTEP supporters and alumni. In May, he was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

For more information on the Gold Nugget reception for this committed educator and basketball favorite, call 747-7363.