

Inception

On the 13th day of November 2004, LeMoyne-Owen College, in collaboration with Shelby County Schools, established a Middle College-Early College Program for high school students. This initiative was approved by the college president, Dr. James Wingate, and the superintendent of Shelby County Schools, Dr. Carol Johnson, as part of the college and district's seamless initiative to improve graduation rates, provide accessibility for students to attend college, and establish an in-house transitional opportunity for students to attend LeMoyne-Owen College, as they pursue their educational goals.

The primary objective of this initiative was and is to offer entering students, an opportunity to culminate the attainment of both a high school diploma and earn two years of college credit towards a bachelor's degree.

These students must have the desire to couple their high school experience with the first two years of college, thus embarking on a four-year academic program of study.

LeMoyne-Owen College is the first historically black college to embrace this initiative and has provided Early College/Middle College high school students the facilities and resources to attain their academic goals.

As a result, the Hollis F. Price Early Middle College High School, so-named for the fourth president of LeMoyne-Owen College, officially opened its doors to the first ninth grade class, August 3, 2004, with Daphne P. Beasley, a LeMoyne-Owen alumnus, as its first principal.