

8th Annual

DIAMOND  AWARDS

2024

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 | 6:00PM

8TH ANNUAL DIAMOND AWARDS

Diamond Awards Program

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

ATLANTA, GA

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Our Mission

The Not Alone Foundation

Our Mission

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the awareness and prevention of kidney disease and enhancing the quality of life of sufferers by providing educational and medical resources and financial assistance for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families. Using the platforms of entertainment, wellness, arts and design as mediums to help forward our mission, NAF educates, inspires and uplifts, working determinedly to confront and conquer this global epidemic.

In addition to the integration of our four core programs, NAF supports interconnected health initiatives such diabetes and high blood pressure awareness, as well as cancer prevention and integrative treatment.

The Not Alone Foundation Inc., in its efforts to combat this global epidemic with impacting the quality of life of affected individuals, we do the small things that make a big difference! NAF is pleased to also partner with other foundations /organizations as community and civically engaged partners to support other initiatives, missions, & visions that perpetuate service above self for the greater good of the community.

The Diamond Awards is a program designed to honor faces and images of excellence in the entertainment, corporate and creative industries for their professional accomplishments and contributions to our society on a local, state, or international level.



Our Impact

The Not Alone Foundation

Our Impact

Every year, more than 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney failure and more than 400,000 Americans suffer from (ESKD), which occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to function at a level needed for day-today life. The average estimated cost of a kidney transplant in the United States is more than \$250,000. The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for CKD and ESRD patients and their families.

The goals of the organization are two-fold: to help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list and to support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD. The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus following his own challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list. In addition to providing financial assistance for patients, the foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.



Chairman

Chairman

The Not Alone Foundation

Welcome to the 8th Annual Diamond Awards

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families.

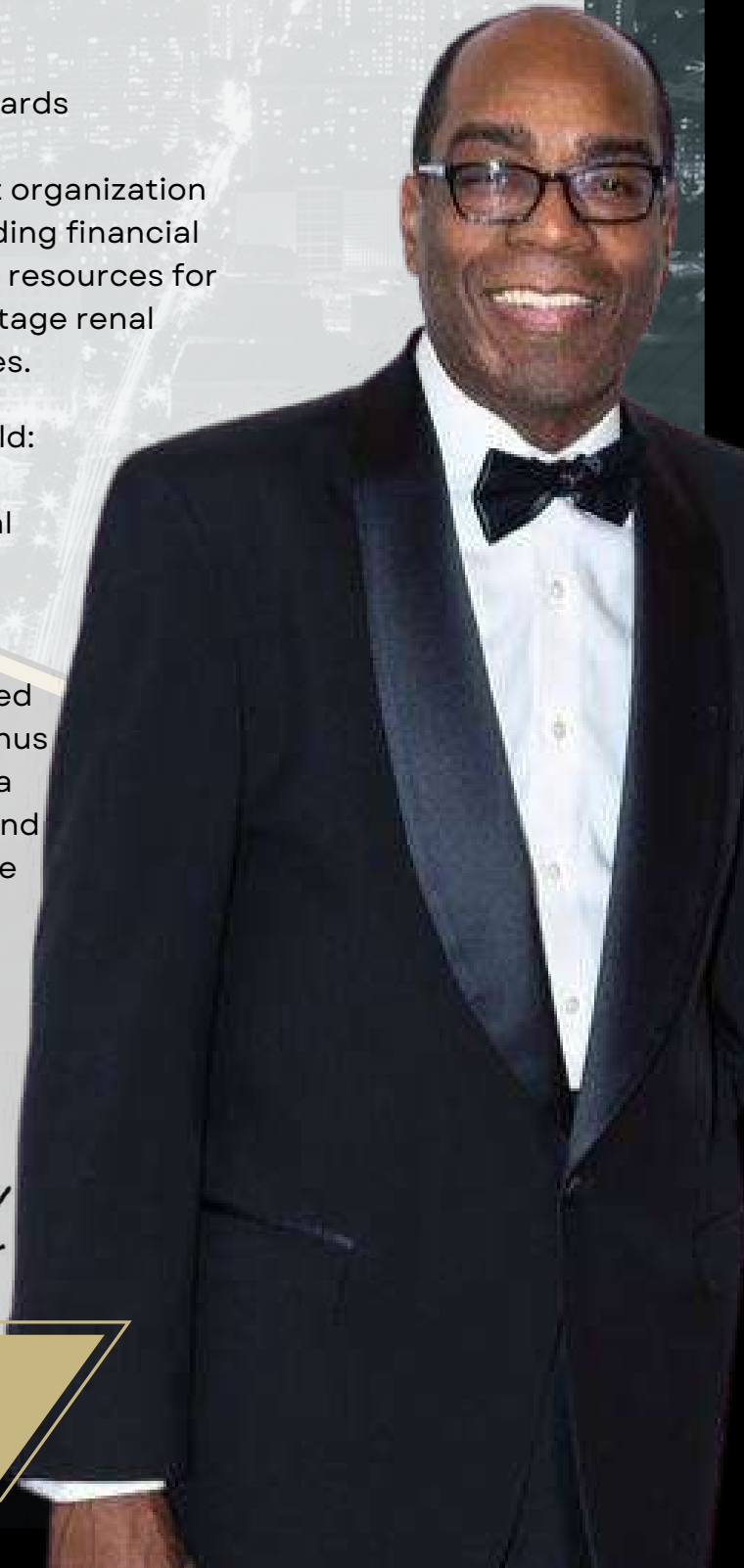
The goals of the organization are two-fold:

- To help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list
- To support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD.

The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus and The University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Mark Dodd while awaiting the challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list, managed to provide financial assistance for patients. The foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.



MARK DODD



President

President

The Not Alone Foundation

On behalf of the board of trustees, senior leadership, and staff of the Not Alone Foundation, Inc,

I welcome you to the 8th Annual Diamond Awards!

The Not Alone Foundation is committed to embracing the needs of individuals that aligns with our mission, vision, and initiatives provided by the foundation.

As President of the foundation, I am humbled to serve; and dedicated to continue my commitment to the community through this distinguished charity.

As we celebrate the 8th Diamond Awards we pause to end the holiday season with acknowledgement of the Christmas season as we give to those less fortunate. The leadership of the foundation is proud to pay tribute to the global face of civil rights, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s day of service and birthday as a community production through the Diamond Awards that is the vehicle that introduces the celebration of Black History month; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion professionals; Essential Workers as Heroes; and our slate of luminaires that will be honored during this 8th Annual Diamond Awards presentation!

ROBERT JACKSON



Atlanta, Ga

Atlanta, Ga

The Diamond of the South

Atlanta, Georgia, founded in 1837 as the end of the Western & Atlantic railroad line (it was first named Marthasville in honor of the then-governor's daughter, nicknamed Terminus for its rail location, and then changed soon after to Atlanta, the feminine of Atlantic -- as in the railroad).

Today the fast-growing city remains a transportation hub, not just for the country but also for the world: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest in daily passenger flights. Direct flights to Europe, South America, and Asia have made metro Atlanta easily accessible to the more than 1,000 international businesses that operate here and the more than 50 countries that have representation in the city through consulates, trade offices, and chambers of commerce. The city has emerged as a banking center and boasts the third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the country.

Atlanta is the capital city of the Southeast, a city of the future with strong ties to its past. The old in new Atlanta is the soul of the city, the heritage that enhances the quality of life in a contemporary city. In the turbulent 60s, Atlanta was "the city too busy to hate." And today, in the 21st century, Atlanta is the "city not too busy to care."



Morehouse College

Morehouse College

Atlanta, Ga

Walk in the footsteps of history, where American Presidents have spoken, Dr. King was eulogized, Civil Rights Movements began, and where talented students became transformative leaders.

Founded in 1867, Morehouse College has been producing extraordinary leaders, visionaries and pillars of the community. Since our humble beginnings in a church basement., Morehouse established a legacy of excellence that continues to strengthen with each passing year. Famous graduates like Martin Luther King Jr. and Spike Lee are joined by five Rhodes scholars as well as congressmen, business titans, college presidents, and many more who proudly represent the Morehouse ideals.

For over 150 years, we have prepared young men to change the world through leadership and service. We don't just educate students. We produce innovators and leaders who are men of distinction. U.S. Senator, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Oscar winner, corporate CEO, U.S. Homeland Security Sec, Surgeon General—Morehouse Men are in a class all their own.

Welcome to Morehouse College!



King Chapel

Martin Luther King Jr.

International Chapel

The Morehouse College Martin Luther King International Chapel is dedicated to empowering transformational, nonviolent ambassadors of peace working to reveal and create the “Beloved” world spiritual, economic, and cultural community as a reflection of the social justice of Jesus Christ.

The world’s most prominent religious memorial to Morehouse alumnus Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the King Chapel is home base for spiritual servants, scholars, and thought leaders who are furthering the work of peace and justice in the tradition of Dr. King, Howard Thurman, Benjamin Elijah Mays, and others who have for decades used the Gospel to manifest Christ’s teachings in the contemporary world.

Through transformative, moral cosmopolitan programs, the chapel serves as a center for the perpetuation of the evolutionary values of cosmopolitan spiritual ethics, nonviolence, service, and harmony in everyday life. Inspired by the possibility of the Beloved World Economic Community as the ethical meaning of the Presence of God, the Chapel embraces those who seek to make King’s dream real as nonviolent creators of a sustainable world in which all people embody their spiritual magnificence by living with a commitment to unconditional love, responsibility, and justice.



King Chapel

LAWRENCE EDWARD CARTER SR.

PH.D., D.D., D.H., D.R.S., D.H.C., MULT.

Founding Dean

Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. is a professor and founding dean of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College.

In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. privately recruited Lawrence Edward Carter as a 10th grader to come to Morehouse College. Twenty-one years later, Lawrence Carter became the first dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel in 1979.

Today he is a tenured professor of religion at Morehouse, the college archivist, and curator. For 56 years, Carter has studied and worked in 14 American universities, colleges, and professional schools, spoken at over 100 different colleges, universities, and seminaries, and received more than 1,000 speaking invitations from 18 Christian denominations, including Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist communions, and traveled to 38 foreign countries..

[More on Dean Lawrence E. Carter Sr.](#)

DEAN CARTER



Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement | Broadcast Executive American Civil Rights Leader

Xernona Clayton as an American civil rights leader and broadcasting executive. During the Civil Rights Movement, she worked for the National Urban League and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she became involved in the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later, Clayton went into television, where she became the first African American from the southern United States to host a daily prime time talk show. She became corporate vice president for Turner Broadcasting.

Xernona Clayton has been honored worldwide for her contributions to humanity, which includes: Bronze Women of the Year for Human Relations, 1969; Communications Woman of Achievement Award by the Atlanta Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television, 1984-85; First Black woman to receive The Trailblazer Award by the Greater Atlanta Club Business and Professional Woman; Superior Television

Named one of Georgia's Most Influential Women 1984 and Black Georgian of the Year 1984; being included in Leadership Atlanta, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, 1971; named Bethune-Tubman Woman of the Year Award, Chicago, 1985; Named Woman of the Year by Black Women Hall of Fame foundation, 1985; T; named one of the nation's Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women by Dollars and Sense Magazine, 1985; being one of Seven Atlanta honorees for Black Achievers Award by the Equitable, 1986; being inducted into the Academy of Women Achievers by the YWCA, 1986; Communications Award by the OICs of America, 1986; American Spirit Award by the United States Air Force Recruiting Service, 1987; and receiving the President's Award by the National Conference of Mayors, 1983.



XERNONA CLAYTON

Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement | Entertainment Actress | Director | Producer

Emmy-winning actress Phylicia Rashad, Director, and Producer Best known for her role as Clair Huxtable on the sitcom *The Cosby Show* (1984–1992) which earned her Emmy Award nominations in 1985 and 1986. She also played Ruth Lucas on *Cosby* (1996–2000). She was dubbed "The Mother of the Black Community" at the 2010 NAACP Image Awards. Acclaimed actress and Howard alum Phylicia Rashad will retire from her position as Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard after the 2023-2024 school year. She studied at Howard University, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Career in Theatre:

- Rashad became known for her stage work with a string of Broadway credits, including her Tony Award-winning role in *A Raisin in the Sun* and numerous other performances.
- She also expanded her career into off-Broadway and regional theatre, all contributing to her success.
- Film and television:
 - Rashad gained prominence with her role as Clair Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, and continued to make significant contributions to both films and television series.
 - She showcased her diverse talents through roles in different genres, from soap operas to children's series.
- Tony Awards and Directorial Debut:
 - In 2004, Rashad became the first black actress to win the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play, and she continued to receive accolades, including a second Tony Award in 2022.
 - She ventured into directing, showcasing her versatility as a talented actor as well as a skilled director in the theater community.



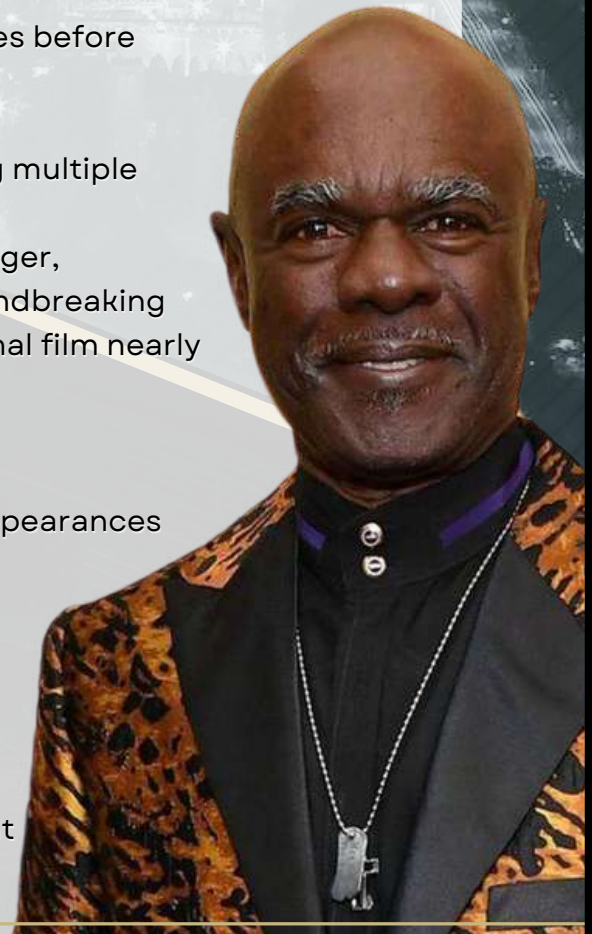
PHYLICIA RASHAD

Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement | Entertainment Actor | Director | Producer

Emmy and NAACP winning actor, writer, director, and producer. Turman is coming off an incredible year with performances in ABC's "Women of the Movement," Paramount's Super Bowl romp 80 FOR BRADY, and his award-winning appearance on OWN's "Queen Sugar." The New York City-born actor enjoyed his first real taste of acting success as a young teenager, originating the role of Travis Younger on Broadway in the landmark play "A Raisin in the Sun" on Broadway.

- Career Beginnings:
 - He apprenticed in regional and repertory companies before making his Los Angeles stage debut.
- Acting Career:
 - He appeared in various films and TV shows, earning multiple NAACP Image Awards and nominations.
 - His notable works include Cooley High, The River Niger, and The Wire series. Mr. Turman believes the groundbreaking film Cooley High remains such a powerful and emotional film nearly 50 years after it was released.
- Filmography:
 - Turman has an extensive filmography, including appearances in TV and podcasts.
 - He has received recognition for his work through awards and nominations.
- Recent Work:
 - He recently appeared in the ABC limited series Women of the Movement in 2021.
 - Turman continues to be active in the entertainment industry with new projects and appearances.



GLYNN TURMAN

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Participants



Rev. Senator Raphael Warnock
Georgia
U.S. Senator



Dr. Helene D. Gayle, M.D., M.P.H.
Spelman College
President



Sid Barron
Asbury Automotive Group
Vice President



Dr. Frederick K. Whitt
Lenoir-Rhyne University
President



Carol Henderson
Emory University
Vice Provost for DEI
Chief Diversity Officer
Adviser to the President

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Performers



Sherry Dukes Williams

Soprano | Opera Vocalist
"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
by: Margaret Bonds



Maria Clark

Soprano | Opera Vocalist
Spelman College
Director of Voice Studies
"Quando m'en vo"
from La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini.



Indra Thomas

Vocalist
"Witness"
by Hall Johnson



Kameron Lopreore

Vocalist
"Nessun Dorma"
by: Giacomo Puccini



Carla Estus

"He Cares"
by Milton Brunson &
Thompson Community Singers



Vivian Sullivan

"Changed"
by Tramaine Hawkins

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Randy Boyd

**Univ. of Tennessee System
President**

**Excellence in Leadership
Trustee | Administration**



Brian Dickens

**Univ. of Tennessee System
Chief Human Resources Officer**

**Excellence in Leadership
Administration | Philanthropy**



Stacy Lightfoot

**Univ. of Tennessee | Chattanooga
Vice Chancellor
Access and Engagement**

Excellence in Leadership



Avery Staley, JD

**Lenoir-Rhyne University
Vice President**

**Lifetime Achievement
Excellence in Higher Education**



Dr. Kaye Husbands Fearing

**Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
at Georgia Tech
Dean**

Excellence in Higher Education



Jaron Felder

**AT&T
Assistant V.P.- Fiber Sales**

**Excellence in Leadership
Corporations**

THE DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Eugene Jones Jr.
Atlanta Housing Authority
CEO

Chairman's Award
Excellence in Leadership



Bryan Johnson
Univ. of Tennessee Chattanooga
Exec. Vice Chancellor &
Chief Strategy Officer

Excellence in Education



Dorothy Norwood
Artist | Singer
Gospel

Excellence in Music



Dr. Paul Bryant
Alabama A&M University
Athletic Director

Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Marcus L. Thompson
Jackson State University
President

Excellence in Leadership



Ashley Robinson
Jackson State University
VP | AD

Excellence in Leadership

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Shameka S. Reynolds
Mayor
Lithonia, GA
Excellence in Leadership



Rev. DR. Kenyatta R. Gilbert
Howard University
Dean | Divinity
Excellence in Education



Kevin Lemons
Music Artist | Higher Calling
Gospel Music
Excellence in Leadership



Rod Connor
Christina Seix Academy
Head of School
Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Angel Mason
Berry College
Director of Athletics
Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Sidney McPhee
Middle Tennessee State Univ.
President
Excellence in Higher Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Clinton Normore, MBA
A.T. Still University
Vice President | DEI
Excellence in Education



Dr. LaVar Charleston, Ph.D.
Univ. of Wisconsin
Vice Chancellor
Excellence in Education



Renae Myles Payne, Ed.D.
Fort Valley State University
Athletics Director
Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Janae Baptiste Brown Ph.D.
Spelman College
Associate Professor
Excellence in Education



Jasher Cox
Allen University
Athletic Director
Excellence in Leadership



Aisha DeBerry
Gas South
DEI Manager
Excellence in Leadership

THE DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Chandra L. Ford, Ph.D.

**Emory University
Professor**

Excellence in Education



Dianne M. Stewart, Ph.D.

**Emory University
Professor**

Excellence in Education



Fred Smith, Jr., J.D.

**Emory University
Professor of Law**

Excellence in Education



Geoffrey P. Levin, Ph.D.

**Emory University
Assistant Professor**

Excellence in Education



Ifeoma Ajunwa, J.D., Ph.D.

**Emory University
Professor of Law**

Excellence in Education



Jacob L. Wright, Ph.D.

**Emory University
Professor of Hebrew**

Excellence in Education

THE DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Janeria Easley, Ph.D.
Emory University
Assistant Professor
Excellence in Education



Jill B. Hamilton, Ph. D.
Emory University
Professor
Excellence in Education



Kali N. Gross, Ph.D.
Emory University
Professor
Excellence in Education



Keiko Price
Emory University
Assoc. VP of Campus Life
Excellence in Education



Marie Friedmann Marquardt, Ph.D.
Emory University
Scholar in Residence
Excellence in Education



Matthew Gary, MD
Emory University
Associate Professor
Excellence in Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Pearl Dowe, Ph.D.
Emory University
Vice Provost | Prof. of Law
Excellence in Education



Rev. Lahronda Welch Little, Ph.D.
Emory University
Assistant Professor
Excellence in Education



Ryan Bonfiglio, Ph.D.
Emory University
Associate Professor
Excellence in Education



Shan Ping Yu, MD, Ph.D.
Emory University
Professor | Anesthesiology
Excellence in Education



Walter C. Rucker Ph.D.
Emory University
Professor
Excellence in Education



Dr. Ronnie Hopkins
Voorhees University
President
Excellence in Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Shane Reese
Brigham Young Univ.
President
Excellence in Education



Dr. Henry P. Davis III
First Baptist Church of Highland Park
Pastor
Excellence in Leadership



Darryl Holloman, Ph.D.
Spelman College
Associate Professor
Excellence in Education



Rev. Dr. Clayton Taylor Sr.
St. Paul Missionary Baptist
Church
Excellence in Leadership



Rev. Christopher Taylor Sr. M.Div.
St. Paul Missionary Baptist
Church
Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Mamie T. Thorns
Assoc. Vice President
Chief DEI Officer
Excellence in Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Nadar Jalili
Southern Methodist Univ.
DeaSchool of Engineering
Excellence in Education



Jarvis Marlow-McCowin, PhD
Corning Incorporated
DEI Manager | Community Affairs
Excellence in Leadership



Dr. Skyller Walkes
Columbia Climate School
Associate Dean
DEI, Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism,
Access, & Justice (DEIA3J)



Tonya Moore, Ph.D
Gordon State College
Athletics Director | Chief of Staff
Excellence in Leadership



Dean James Mack
University of Cincinnati
DEI
Excellence in Higher Education



Dr. Lattisha A. Bates
University of Cincinnati
Excellence in Higher Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Honorees



Thomas M. Huebner, Jr., Ph.D.
Meridian Comm College
President

Excellence in Education



Cedric Gathings
Meridian Comm. College
VP for Engagement
& Student Affairs

Excellence in Leadership



Zan C. Jones
Winthrop University
Associate VP
Chief Diversity Officer

Excellence in Leadership



Eric Peterson
Hargrave Military Academy
President

Excellence in Leadership



Michael Washington
Hargrave Military Academy
Chaplain

Excellence in Higher Education



Melissa Wood Bartholomew
Harvard Divinity

Excellence in Higher Education

THE
DIAMOND AWARDS

Thank You

Sheri
Williams
Soprano/Vocalist



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Vivian Sullivan

www.TheDiamondAwardATL.com

Maria Clark

Soprano

www.TheNotAloneFoundation.com

8th Annual

DIAMOND



AWARDS

2024

EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE

Diamond Awards

20 AD

24 BOOK

8th Annual
DIAMOND AWARDS
2024



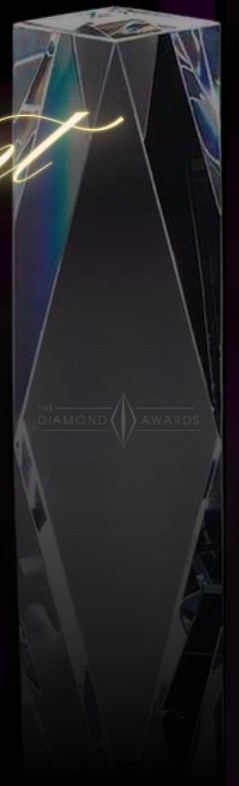
Lifetime Achievement
2024 Diamond Award Recipient

Xernona Clayton

presented by:

Sid Barron

Asbury Automotive Group





NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Premium Sponsor

**LENOIR~RHYNE
UNIVERSITY**

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AWARDS

2024

Dr. Frederick K. Whitt
President

presents to

Avery Staley, JD
Vice President

DEI, HR, Title IX, Disability Services

Lifetime Achievement

Excellence in Higher Education

LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

AVERY STALEY, JD

Vice President

DEI, HR, Title IX, Disability Services

A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, Avery Staley was educated in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and graduated from West Charlotte High School in 1988. He went on to attend North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina.

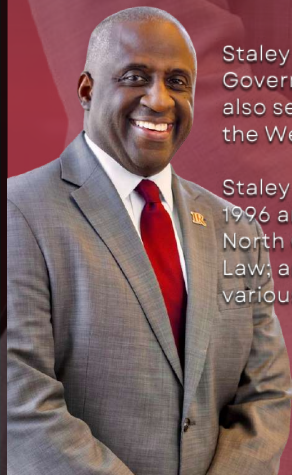
As a first-year student at NCCU, he was elected class president and received the freshman award as an outstanding student leader. He then joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated and served as vice president. He graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.

Staley worked as a juvenile counselor for the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice before pursuing graduate school at Winthrop University, where he received a Master of Liberal Arts. After graduating from Winthrop, Staley worked in corporate banking, nonprofits and later served as a campaign manager for former NC 12th Congressional U.S. Representative Mel Watt.

In 2004, Staley headed to Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vermont, to pursue his law degree, a long-held goal. While in law school, Staley received the President's Award for Academic Excellence for receiving the highest grade in Constitutional Criminal Procedure in the fall of 2005, was a recipient of NAACP Legal Defense Fund Scholarship and was selected for the "Who's Who in American Law Students 2005."

After graduating law school in 2007, he went to work for the Charlotte Chamber as a consultant. A year later he returned to politics, working with North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton as a senior adviser and special counsel.

In 2015, Staley joined Livingstone College, an HBCU in Salisbury, North Carolina, as the director of corporate relations and foundations. In 2021, he was named the inaugural vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina. Staley also oversees human resources, Title IX, disability services and multicultural affairs, an intentional structure that underscores the university's commitment to DEI in critical areas like student affairs and services, employment practices and operations.



Staley also stays involved with the greater community. In 2022, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper appointed Staley to the North Carolina Internship Council. He also serves on the Catawba County Commission on Equity in Health and the boards of the Western Piedmont Symphony and the United Way of Catawba County.

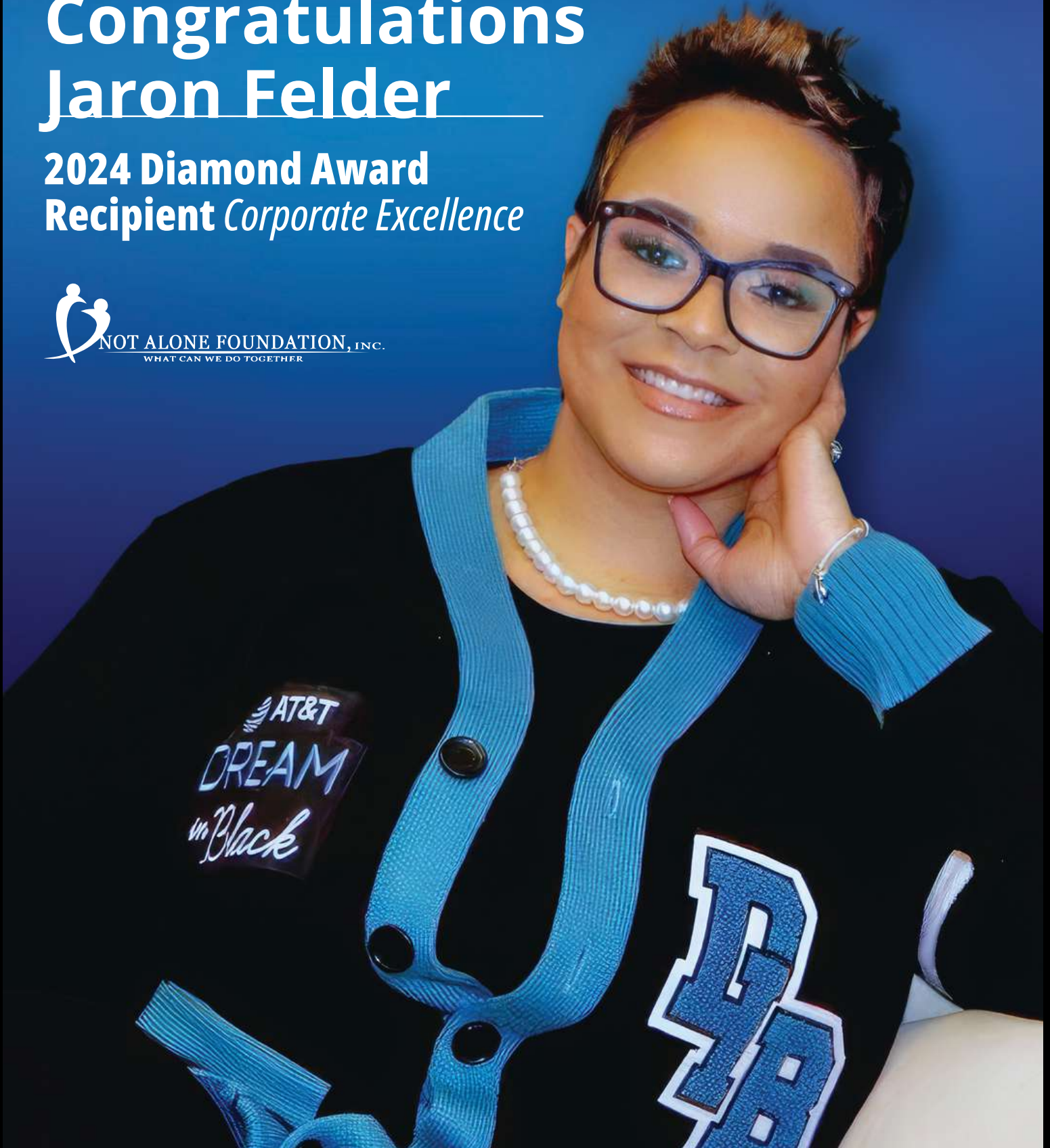
Staley and his wife, Erika, who met while they both were students at NCCU, married in 1996 and are the parents of two daughters: Sage, a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and first-year law student at Cleveland State College of Law; and Lark, a junior in high school. He enjoys reading, playing golf and listening to various types of music.

Congratulations!



Congratulations Jaron Felder

2024 Diamond Award
Recipient *Corporate Excellence*



8th Annual
DIAMOND  AWARDS
2024

Congratulations

Nikki Walker

Director | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

DOMO

Former Diamond Award Recipient

2024 Diamond Award
Speaker





EUGENE JONES JR.

**CEO & PRESIDENT
ATLANTA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Chairman's Award

- Excellence in Leadership -



"My vision is not about changing a specific housing authority, but rather about bringing the spirit and the framework for creating community social change that is meaningful and which endures."



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DIAMOND



AWARDS

2024

Premium Sponsor



Georgia Tech

Ivan Allen College
of Liberal Arts

*We applaud Dean Husband's Feeling
on her recognition of Excellence*



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER



Dr. Kaye Husbands Fealing

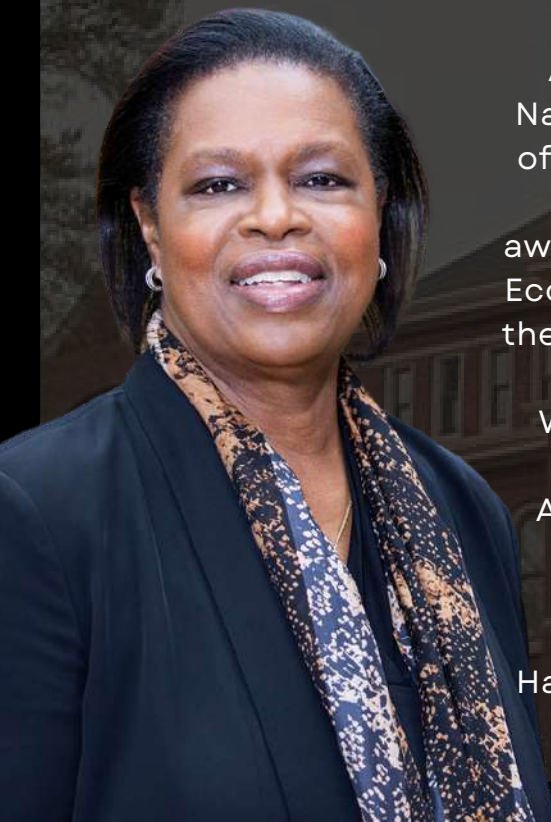
Dean | Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Excellence in Education

Dr. Kaye Husbands Fealing is Dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She specializes in science of science and innovation policy, the public value of research expenditures, and the underrepresentation of women and minorities in STEM fields and workforce. Prior to her position at Georgia Tech, Husbands Fealing taught at the University of Minnesota and Williams College. She was also a program officer at the National Science Foundation (NSF), where she developed and was the inaugural program director for the Science of Science and Innovation Policy program and co-chaired an Interagency Task Group, chartered by the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council. Husbands Fealing was a visiting scholar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Technology Policy and Industrial Development.

Husbands Fealing is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, is an Elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, an Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and serves on the AAAS Executive Board. She was awarded the 2023 Carolyn Shaw Bell Award from the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, and the 2017 Trailblazer Award from the National Medical Association Council on Concerns of Women Physicians. She currently serves on committees at NSF, AAAS, the American Academies, and the General Accountability Office. She is a member of the International Women's Forum, Georgia Chapter.

Husbands Fealing holds a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University, and a B.A. in mathematics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania.



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AWARDS

2024

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EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations

to our

Emory University

Honorees

8th Annual

DIAMOND



AWARDS

2024

Congratulations

Chandra L. Ford, Ph.D.

Excellence in Education

Professor of Behavioral, Social & Health Education Sciences

- ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH -

&

Professor of African American Studies



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



8th Annual
DIAMOND AWARDS
2024

Congratulations

DIANNE M. STEWART, PH.D.

Excellence in Education

Samuel Candler Dobbs - Professor of Religion - Samuel Candler Dobbs
&
Professor of African American Studies



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



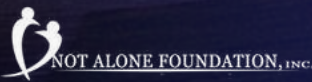
8th Annual
DIAMOND AWARDS
2024

Congratulations

FRED SMITH, JR., J.D

Excellence in Education

Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law



EMORY
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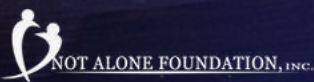
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Assistant Professor of African American Studies



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Congratulations

Jill B. Hamilton, Ph. D.

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Professor



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KALI N. GROSS, PH.D.

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National Endowment for the Humanities
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Associate Professor | Department of Neurosurgery



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ASA Griggs Candler Professor of Political Science

& African American Studies



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Ryan Bonfiglio, Ph.D.

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Associate Professor in the Practice of Old Testament

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WALTER C. RUCKER

Excellence in Education

Professor | African American Studies + History



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Congratulations

Shan Ping Yu, MD, Ph.D.

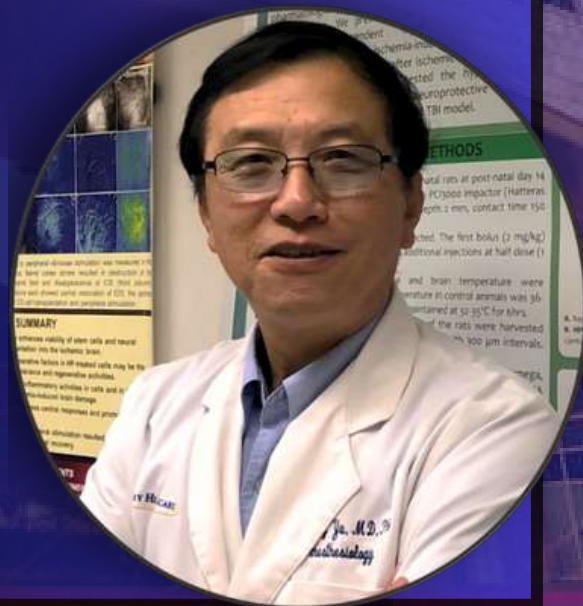
Excellence in Education

Associate O. Wayne Rollins Professor,

Department of Anesthesiology



**EMORY
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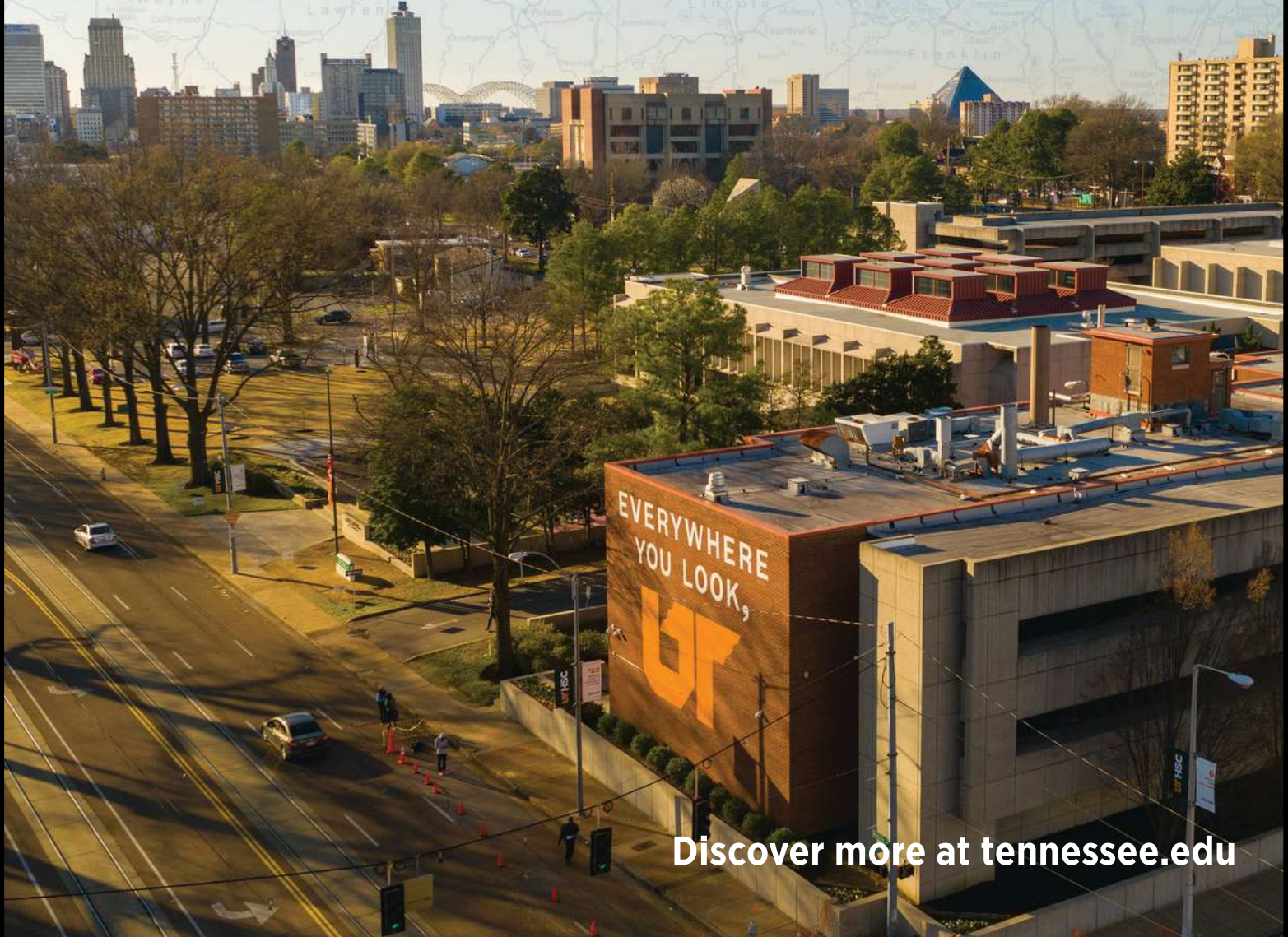


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Randy Boyd

President
University of Tennessee System
SYSTEM

Excellence in Leadership

Trustee | Administration

Philanthropy, Humanitarian & Community Engagement

Randy Boyd serves as president of the University of Tennessee System, which includes campuses in Chattanooga, Pulaski and Martin; the Health Science Center in Memphis; and the Institute of Public Service. Additionally, it includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, which is also comprised of the Space Institute in Tullahoma and the statewide Institute of Agriculture. The UT System also manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership, where Boyd serves as co-chairman.

In 2007, Boyd began a journey transitioning from entrepreneur and businessman to full-time public servant. Boyd is a founder and chairman of tnAchieves, a nonprofit which has helped send more than 133,000 students to community college free of tuition and fees. This success led then-Governor Bill Haslam to invite him to serve as Special Advisor on Higher Education in 2013. During his tenure, he is credited with being the architect of the Drive to 55 and the Tennessee Promise. In 2015, Gov. Haslam recruited him back to serve as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. During his tenure, his team recruited 52,000 new jobs and \$9 billion in new investment for the state. He also founded and co-chaired the governor's Rural Task Force and chaired the Governor's Workforce Sub-Cabinet.

Boyd is a first-generation college graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in business with an emphasis on industrial management from UT Knoxville. He also earned a master's degree in liberal studies with a focus on foreign policy from the University of Oklahoma.



Discover more at tennessee.edu

BRIAN DICKENS

Ph.D., SPHR, SCP, CEC

THE UNIVERSITY OF
Chief Human Resources Officer
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
University of Tennessee System

Excellence in Leadership

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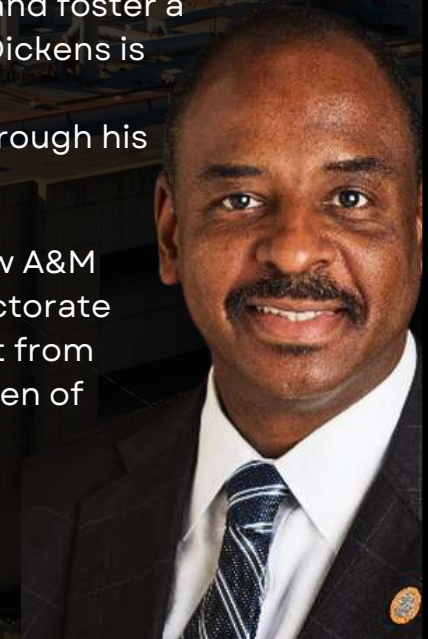
1 University System,
5 Unique Campuses,
2 Statewide Institutes

Brian Dickens is the chief human resources officer for the University of Tennessee System. In this role, Dickens is responsible for planning, developing and implementing statewide initiatives that support employee engagement. Administration areas include system recruitment, employee and organizational development, compensation, inclusion, diversity and engagement, data analytics, reporting, payroll, benefits and retirement services. The office also ensures compliance with federal, state, and University labor standards and policies. He collaborates with the UT system, campus and institute leadership, human resources officers and diversity officers. Dickens joined the UT System on Dec. 1, 2019, following a national search.

As part of his personal and professional ethos, Dickens strongly emphasizes his social responsibility. He firmly believes that we are responsible for positively impacting society and the environment in which we operate. By integrating social responsibility into his endeavors, Dickens aims to contribute to the well-being of the communities and the planet, and foster a culture of ethical decision-making and sustainable practices. Dickens is committed to leveraging his skills and resources to drive meaningful change and create lasting, positive impact through his daily interactions as a thriving individual contributor.

Dickens earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Prairie View A&M University in 1994, a Master of Arts in counseling in 1995, and a doctorate in educational administration and human resource development from Texas A&M University in 2015. He is a member of the 100 Black Men of America and a proud member of the Beta Theta Chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

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Ms. Celeste Murphy**

presents to

Stacy Lightfoot

Excellence in Education- Leadership
Vice Chancellor | Access & Engagement, Philanthropy, Humanitarian & Community Engagement



Stacy Lightfoot

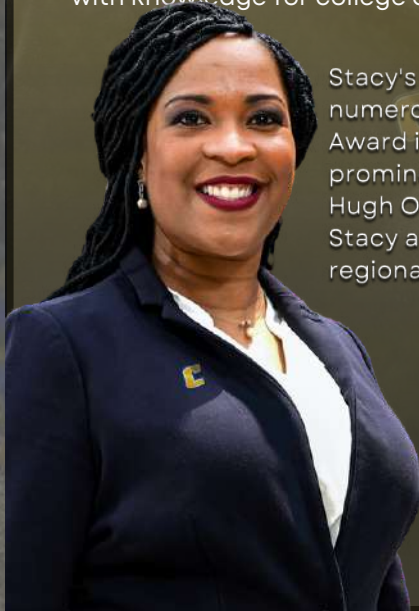
Vice Chancellor for Access and Engagement

Stacy Goodwin Lightfoot, a Chattanooga native, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Theatre from DePauw University and a Master of Arts degree in International Service from the University of Roehampton in London, England. During her graduate studies, she lived in Kingston, Jamaica, where she taught Mathematics and English. Her international experiences also include studying abroad at Temple University's Rome, Italy, campus and at the University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica.

In 2021, Stacy joined the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) as the inaugural Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement. In this role, she plays a key part in fostering an inclusive campus community and leading initiatives related to diversity, access, inclusion, and community engagement. Before joining UTC, Stacy spent 12 years with the Public Education Foundation (PEF), serving as the organization's Executive Vice President. PEF is a nonprofit providing training, research, and resources to educators.

Stacy's achievements include significant work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, collaborating on programs to close opportunity gaps and increase college-going and completion rates for students in Chattanooga public schools. Her commitment to education reform is evident in her involvement in programs like PEF's STEP-UP Chattanooga, a high school internship that connects low-income students with top companies.

Her advocacy extends to national platforms, as seen when she testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions about empowering families with knowledge for college decisions.



Stacy's outstanding 25-year career in education has garnered her numerous accolades, including the National Excellence in Education Award in 2016—an esteemed recognition also bestowed upon prominent figures such as First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Ben Carson, Hugh O'Brian, and Eugene Lang. In addition to her busy schedule, Stacy actively participates in leadership programs and on local and regional boards.

Stacy Goodwin Lightfoot stands as a respected leader in the field of access and engagement, embodying passion, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. Her work continues to make a lasting impact on students, locally and nationally. As a proud mother to a teenage son, Dallas Lightfoot, Stacy's personal and professional endeavors reflect her dedication to creating a brighter future for the next generation.



Dr. Bryan Johnson

Vice Chancellor and Chief Strategy Officer

Dr. Bryan Johnson is a native of Nashville and has dedicated much of his career to public education, serving as a teacher, school administrator and district administrator. Most recently, Johnson served as Chief Transformation Officer for U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc., supporting the technology and management teams across the enterprise. From 2017 to 2021, he served as Superintendent of Hamilton County Schools in Tennessee, which educates 45,000 students across 78 schools. During his tenure, Hamilton County Schools experienced historic academic growth moving from 130 of 141 districts in Tennessee to 2nd, making HCS the fastest-improving school district in Tennessee.

Johnson is known as a visionary and recognized for leading bold change. In his first year as Superintendent, he announced the launch of Future Ready Institutes, which are career-themed academies across high schools. In 2020, the national publication EdWeek recognized him as a “Leader to Learn From” for this effort. He has received numerous accolades for his leadership, including being named one of four finalists for the 2021 AASA (The School Superintendents Association) National Superintendent of the Year as well as 2021 Tennessee Superintendent of the Year. He was listed as a Superintendent to Watch by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and 2020 Outstanding Young Alumnus at Austin Peay State University.



Before coming to Chattanooga, Johnson spent 10 years in the Clarksville (Tennessee) Montgomery County School System, rising to chief academic officer. He holds degrees from Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, and Trevecca University, where he earned his doctorate in educational leadership.

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Excellence in Education

Associate Professor of Medicine
Vice Chair | Chief Pulmonary Section
Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care Medicine



Atlanta, Ga



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2024 Diamond Award
Recipient *Corporate Excellence*



Aisha DeBerry

Excellence in Leadership

GAS  SOUTH

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager



Excellence in Leadership

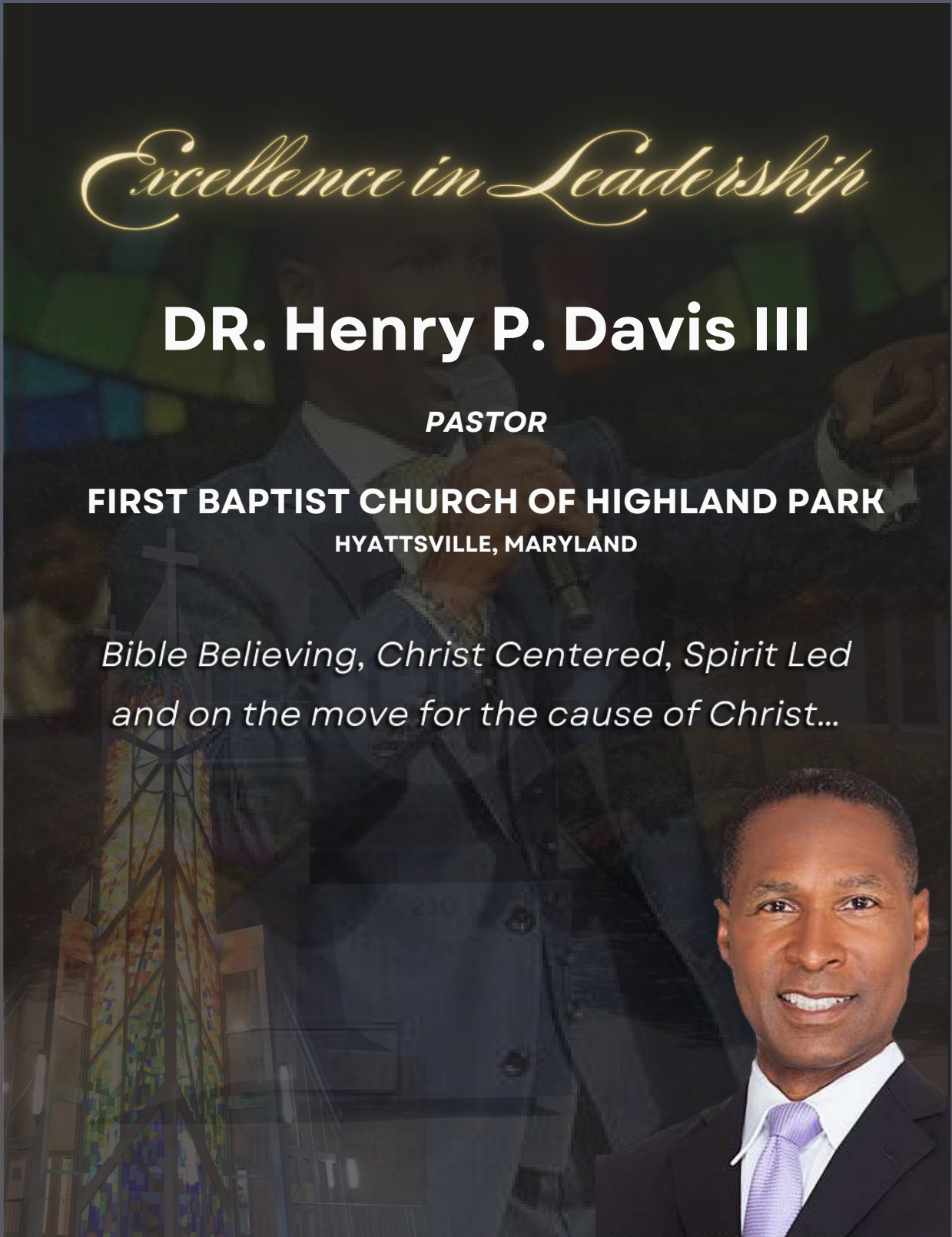
DR. Henry P. Davis III

PASTOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

*Bible Believing, Christ Centered, Spirit Led
and on the move for the cause of Christ...*



Congratulations

DR. Henry P. Davis III

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

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*Congratulations and Blessing from your community
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A community of which you so graciously serve, you
are very deserving to be recognized for your
Excellence in Leadership*

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OF THE
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SHANE REESE

President | Brigham Young University

Shane Reese is the fourteenth President of Brigham Young University. President Reese has been described as a stats nerd, fun-loving friend, and data-driven leader, yet all agree that he exemplifies the characteristics of a BYU graduate: he is motivated by a love of God and His children.

President Reese joined the BYU statistics faculty in 2001 and subsequently served as dean of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and most recently as academic vice president. Prior to entering academia, he worked with the nuclear stockpile at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

President Reese earned bachelor's and master's degrees in statistics from BYU and a doctoral degree in statistics from Texas A&M University. He has created statistical models addressing a range of issues from predicting the power of solar storms to determining the safest method for destroying chemical weapons to assessing climate impact on glaciers in high mountain Asia and Antarctica. His work has also been used by the U.S. Olympic volleyball team as well as the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles. Through his research, he has mentored countless students. His colleagues claim that his off-the-chart student ratings can be attributed to his "love of life...and because everybody to him is a friend."



ALABAMA
A&M
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Paul A. Bryant
Director of Athletics

Dr. Paul A. Bryant was named Alabama A&M Director of Athletics on August 20, 2022, bringing with him an established track record as a champion of academics, a fundraiser and developer of championship programs and facilities.

He is also someone who is extremely familiar with the culture of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), having led four such departments over the course of eight years. He became just the fourth full-time AD in the program's 24-year NCAA Division I history.

Bryant most recently served as the associate vice president for intercollegiate athletics at Edward Waters and was previously an AD at Grambling, South Carolina State, Stillman and Eureka.



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Dr. Paul A. Bryant

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HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

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Melissa Wood Bartholomew

Associate Dean

Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging

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Dr. Marcus Leanders Thompson
President

2024 Diamond Award Recipient
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Ashley Robinson
Athletic Director

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Vice President of Enrollment Management
& Student Affairs

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COPPIN
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Spelman



College

Darryl Holloman, Ph.D.

Excellence in Leadership

Vice President for Student Affairs



2024 Diamond Award Recipient
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Spelman



College

Janae Baptiste Brown, Ph.D.

Excellence in Education

Assistant Professor

Chemistry | Biochemistry



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Director of Athletics

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Zan C. Jones

**Associate Vice President
Chief Diversity Officer**



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DR. RONNIE HOPKINS

President



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Meridian Community College

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Cedric Gathings

**Vice President for Engagement
Student Affairs**

Excellence in Leadership



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Georgia | Gwinnett County Sherriff's Office

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Nadar Jalili

Dean Engineering

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Coretta Boykin

President
Reid State Technical College

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Rodney D. Howard
Midtown High School
Assistant Principal

Excellence in Education



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Excellence in Education

Mike Dishman
Dean
University of West Georgia

Excellence in Leadership

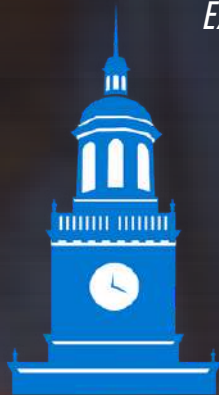


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Excellence in Education & Leadership

REV. DR. KENYATTA R. GILBERT, PH.D.
Dean | Howard University School of Divinity

2024 Diamond Award Recipient
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1867

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Kimberly A. Truong, Ph.D

Chief Equity Officer

MGH Institute of Health Professions

Excellence in Education



MGH INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



CARDINALS **STAND OUT**

Dr. Mamie T. Thorns, currently the Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), joined the institution in 2002. In addition to serving as the Title IX coordinator, she plays a crucial role in advising the president and leading various committees and councils.

Thorns oversees SVSU's diversity programs, Title IX initiatives, and the Campus Climate Study. As Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, she has implemented programs supporting enrollment goals, conducted an Inclusive Excellence study, and established the SVSU Multicultural Student Center. She teaches courses on diversity at the university, and conducts training workshops for businesses and organizations.

Beyond SVSU, Thorns is instrumental in the Great Lakes Bay Regional Youth Leadership Institute and co-organizes the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Celebration. She also leads the Taste of Soul event, showcasing African-American cultural recipes. On the national level, Thorns is active in the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Thorns has received numerous awards, including the Dr. Frank W. Hale Jr. Distinguished Service Award and the MLK Unity Award. Under her leadership, SVSU has received the INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award three times.

Active in various organizations, Thorns mentors underrepresented individuals and is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, NAACP, Rotary International Club, and more. In her personal time, she is involved in community service and is an active member of Bethel AME Church. Thorns, a Saginaw resident, is married to Odall Thorns, Jr.



Congratulations to Mamie T. Thorns

Recipient of the

**DIAMOND
AWARD**

**EXCELLENCE IN
HIGHER EDUCATION**
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



**SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Mamie T. Thorns

Associate Vice President
Chief Diversity Officer | DEI
Saginaw Valley State University

SVSU's Chief Diversity Officer. As Special Assistant to the President for Diversity Programs, Dr. Thorns is responsible for providing the leadership and coordination of SVSU's programs related to diversity, equal opportunity, and affirmative action. She serves as primary adviser to the President and the campus community on matters related to maintaining and enhancing a diverse campus environment.

At SVSU, Dr. Thorns was instrumental in the creation of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Youth Leadership Institute, an SVSU initiative which started in 2005.

Over the years, this Institute has grown from serving 51 junior and senior high school students to over 96 students representing Saginaw, Midland and Bay Counties. In addition, Dr. Thorns is co-chair along with the Saginaw, Bay and Midland community foundations for the Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. She also teaches courses on managing diversity and inclusion at SVSU along with conducting diversity and inclusion training for local, state and national businesses, community organizations, and schools. In her personal time, Dr. Thorns enjoys mentoring underrepresented students and adults in the community who need guidance in making education and career choices.



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2024 Diamond Award Recipient
Excellence in Leadership



8th Annual
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Excellence in Leadership



WELCOME TO ALLEN UNIVERSITY

JASHER COX

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Excellence in Leadership

CONGRATULATIONS

A photograph of President Sidney A. McPhee and First Lady Elizabeth McPhee. President McPhee is on the left, wearing a blue suit and a striped tie, smiling. First Lady Elizabeth McPhee is on the right, wearing a black dress and a large black hat with a bow, also smiling. The background is dark with several "Best of Music City" logos. The text "CONGRATULATIONS" is at the top. The text "President Sidney A. McPhee Middle Tennessee State University 2024 DIAMOND AWARD FOR PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP" is overlaid on the left side of the photo. The text "President McPhee and First Lady Elizabeth McPhee" is overlaid on the right side of the photo. The text "Dr. Sidney A. McPhee was named the 10th president of Middle Tennessee State University in 2001. He has helped MTSU ascend to a position of higher education leadership with unique and innovative academic programs that attract students from across the country and around the globe." is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "Thanks to his leadership, MTSU is a top choice for first-generation students, veterans, adult learners and transfer students. Since President McPhee's arrival, MTSU has:" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•become the No. 1 choice school for Greater Nashville;" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•twice raised admission standards;" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•increased enrollment of high ability students;" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•added more than 40 academic programs, two colleges, and 20 institutes and centers;" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•initiated more than \$1.5 billion in new construction and renovations to its 500-plus-acre campus;" is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "•and named by The Princeton Review to its prestigious list of Best Colleges in the U.S. for five consecutive years." is overlaid on the bottom left. The text "0323-1767 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. See our full policy at www.mtsu.edu/fec." is overlaid on the bottom left.

President Sidney A. McPhee
Middle Tennessee State University
2024 DIAMOND AWARD FOR
PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

President McPhee and First Lady Elizabeth McPhee

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee was named the 10th president of Middle Tennessee State University in 2001. He has helped MTSU ascend to a position of higher education leadership with unique and innovative academic programs that attract students from across the country and around the globe.

Thanks to his leadership, MTSU is a top choice for first-generation students, veterans, adult learners and transfer students. Since President McPhee's arrival, MTSU has:

- become the No. 1 choice school for Greater Nashville;
- twice raised admission standards;
- increased enrollment of high ability students;
- added more than 40 academic programs, two colleges, and 20 institutes and centers;
- initiated more than \$1.5 billion in new construction and renovations to its 500-plus-acre campus;
- and named by The Princeton Review to its prestigious list of Best Colleges in the U.S. for five consecutive years.

A large, close-up portrait of Dr. Angel Mason, a Black woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing large hoop earrings and a dark top with white polka dots. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Congratulations
Dr. Angel Mason

Recipient of the **DIAMOND AWARD** for Excellence
in Education, Leadership, Philanthropy, Humanitarianism and
Community Engagement



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A.T. Still University congratulates

Clinton J. Normore, MBA
ATSU Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion



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in Higher Education Leadership, Philanthropy, Humanitarian & Community Engagement

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CHRISTINA SEIX ACADEMY

Trenton, NJ

www.ChristinaSeixAcademy.org



Rob Connor is the co-founding Head of School at Christina Seix Academy in Trenton, New Jersey, one of the country's only private boarding schools focused on serving under-represented families. Under his guidance for over a decade, the Academy has thrived as an equity-focused, urban independent school dedicated to supporting the health, academic, and residential needs of under-resourced families. Developed on a 70-acre campus, the year-round learning community includes fully-staffed health and advocacy centers, faculty and staff housing, as well as emergency housing for families. Celebrating three graduating classes, the Academy has successfully placed students in prestigious boarding and day high schools throughout the country.

A proud alumnus of Morehouse College, Rob holds a PhD. in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Pennsylvania and recently served as the Harbor Fellow of Educational Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Wesleyan University. He also serves as a Trustee of several respected organizations, including the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Watershed Institute, the New Jersey Assoc. of Independent Schools, and Centurion, one of the country's oldest nonprofits, focused on the vindication of the wrongly convicted.

Above all, Rob is a devoted husband to Dr. Sushama Austin-Connor for 21 years and a father to two remarkable sons, Lekh and Rowan Connor.



Excellence in Leadership

ROB CONNOR

2024 Diamond Award Recipient

Excellence in Leadership





CHRISTINA SEIX ACADEMY

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Our purpose is to empower extraordinary young people to grow "From Potential to Achievement" by addressing the systemic educational and other barriers that have historically held back children from marginalized communities. We prepare students to succeed in highly selective independent schools, which in turn provide them with rigorous academic development and access to a vast array of experiences, resources, and networks.



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*Congratulations,
Dean Mack!*



*Congratulations,
Senior Associate
Dean Bates!*

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DR. LITTISHA A. BATES

Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives in Academic Affairs

Dr. Littisha A. Bates is a dynamic speaker and scholar activist, leveraging her sociological expertise and personal experience as a minoritized citizen to inspire and empower those she mentors. As the Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives in Academic Affairs at the University of Cincinnati, she brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to fostering positive change.

With a tenured position as an Associate Professor of Sociology and a Faculty Affiliation with the Department of Africana Studies, Dr. Bates has played a pivotal role in shaping inclusive academic environments. Her journey at the university includes serving as the inaugural Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Community Partnerships, as well as co-founding the Black Faculty Association.

Originally hailing from the south side of Chicago, Dr. Bates earned her Bachelor's in sociology from Grand Valley State University, where she also became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. Recognized as a McNair Scholar and with a strong support system from the Trio office, she continued her academic journey at Arizona State, obtaining both her MA and Ph.D. in Sociology. Since joining the faculty at UC in 2009, Dr. Bates has been dedicated to innovative teaching, exemplified in courses like "Fierce Sociology: Studying Beyoncé." Her research delves into the intersection of race/ethnicity and poverty on educational outcomes, with a keen interest in how family processes impact educational success.

A partner in community-based participatory research, Dr. Bates serves on the leadership team for The Cincinnati Project, contributing to initiatives focused on social justice. In the College of Arts and Sciences, she actively works towards fostering a culture of equity and excellence.

Recognized for her achievements, Dr. Bates is a member of the 2018 YWCA Rising STARS cohort and was honored in the 2020 class of the Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty under Forty. Committed to authenticity in her pursuits, she devotes a significant portion of her time to speaking engagements, student mentoring, and advocacy for social equity.

Outside of the University she is very active within her community and church, Light of the World Church. Dr. Bates attributes her ability to be successful in part to the unwavering support of her husband Juan Sr. and their three children Juan II, Lauryn and Trinity.

In addition to her familial and academic roles, Dr. Bates is the founder and CEO of DLAB Consulting, LLC, a company dedicated to partnering with businesses and individuals to unlock their full potential in the realms of social justice and equity. Her commitment to success in academia and business is surpassed only by her dedication to achieving it authentically.



University of 
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DEAN JAMES MACK

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

James Mack currently serves as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) at the University of Cincinnati, overseeing over 900 faculty and staff and more than 8,000 students. Previously, James served as the Divisional Dean of Natural Sciences in A&S, contributing to the establishment of the School of Environmental Studies and Sustainability. He also held the position of Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Cincinnati, where he developed strategies to address the achievement gap between majority and underrepresented students.

Before transitioning into administrative roles, James began his tenure at the University of Cincinnati as an Assistant Professor in Chemistry. He earned promotions, first to Associate Professor with tenure, and later to the rank of Professor. James' research focuses on sustainable methods for conducting chemical reactions and has gained recognition in prominent publications such as the New York Times, Chemical & Engineering News, and Chemistry and Industry. His research endeavors have been supported with over 2 million dollars in funding, and he was acknowledged by the Royal Society of Chemistry as one of the top 5% of cited authors in both 2019 and 2020.

James has also translated his research into practical solutions by establishing Cinthesis, a synthetic company dedicated to using mechanochemistry for environmentally benign synthesis of chemical products. This reflects his commitment to applying academic solutions to real-world challenges. Beyond research, James has been recognized for his mentorship and service by faculty and students.

A Bronx, NY native, James Mack graduated from Middlebury College with a bachelor's degree. Following his undergraduate studies, he attended the University of New Hampshire as a New England Board of Higher Education fellow, earning his PhD in Chemistry. After completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Boston College, he joined the University of Cincinnati as an Assistant Professor. James is supported by his wife Carol and their two children, Allison and Anthony.



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Congratulations

Michael Washington *Chaplain* **Hargrave Military Academy**

Michael Washington brings a plethora of experiences and a passion for working with youth. In addition to serving our country as a member of the US Marine Corps and US Army, he has been called to God's service. He has been an ordained minister for over 14 years and has several years of experience as both a youth pastor and an area director for Young Life, an international youth outreach ministry.





Congratulations

Eric Peterson
President
Hargrave Military Academy

I am drawn to Hargrave's distinctive and compelling mission, which includes its Christian principles and commitment to educating men of character. I recognize that boys thrive on structure and challenge, both of which are central to the military and athletic programs. I see great opportunity for the school as we work to build for the future on Hargrave's impressive history and traditions.

– Mr. Eric Peterson





Congratulations

Briana Williams
Chief Diversity Officer
Virginia Military Institute

Briana Williams, M.A.Ed. (who was originally hired as the deputy chief diversity officer), came to VMI with nearly a decade of higher ed experience. As a Black woman and Michigan native who relocated to Virginia solely to work with Cadets, she embodies the spirit of inclusivity behind the Institute's efforts to increase the value proposition of the VMI Experience for every member of the VMI Community.



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LEMONS
AND Higher Calling



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