

Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker Dr. Henry N. Tisdale



A native of Kingstree, South Carolina and magna cum laude graduate of Claflin University, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale returned to his alma mater as its eighth president in 1994.

Widely recognized as an extraordinary and visionary leader, Dr. Tisdale has presided over a period of phenomenal transformation at Claflin University. During more than two decades of leadership, the University has gained state, regional and national recognition for academic excellence, increased enrollment, and enhancements of both its physical infrastructure and research capacity.

Dr. Tisdale earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Claflin University in 1965 and later attended Temple University, where he earned a master's in education mathematics in 1967. He also earned a master's in mathematics from Dartmouth

College in 1975. Three years later, he became the first African-American to receive a doctorate in mathematics from Dartmouth and since that time he has been a recipient of honorary doctorates from South Carolina State University (2004) and Hofstra University (2009). In 2014, Temple University inducted Dr. Tisdale into its "Gallery of Success."

Dr. Tisdale's inaugural pledge to place Claflin University among the premier liberal arts institutions in America was realized in August 2008 when Forbes.com listed the University as the top Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the nation and ranked Claflin in the top four percent nationally in its first-ever rankings of "America's Best Colleges." That recognition was followed by a series of top rankings from nationally reputable organizations and in 2015 Claflin was named HBCU of the Year by HBC Digest and AARP. In between, Claflin also became the top HBCU in annual alumni giving rate at 52 percent, an achievement that also puts the institution among the nation's top tier colleges and universities. Enrollment has reached 2100, increasing by 120 percent since 1994.

Throughout his career, Dr. Tisdale has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. In September 2008, the town of Kingstree, in recognition of the extraordinary achievements of their native son, erected a lasting tribute, six highway markers proclaiming Kingstree, South Carolina the "Home of Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, The Eighth President of Claflin University." Dr. Tisdale's other recent honors include the 2008 CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District III Chief Executive Leadership Award and the 2007 Milliken Medal of Quality Award. Most recent honors include the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, and the Higher Education Leadership Award. Additionally, he is a member of the Orangeburg County Development Commission Board of Directors, Chair of the UNCF Government Affairs Committee, a member of the HBCU Capital Financing Advisory Board and a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Board of Directors of The United Methodist Church.

Dr. Tisdale and his wife, Alice Carson Tisdale, have two children, Danica Camille Tisdale Fisher and Brandon Keith Tisdale, and two grandchildren, Asa and Anansa Fisher.

Plenary Keynote Speaker
Dr. Brian K. Bridges



Brian K. Bridges serves as Vice President, Research and Member Engagement, and leads UNCF's Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute (FDPRI) and the Institute for Capacity Building. In this role Dr. Bridges serves as UNCF's chief research officer, principal editor and contributor for FDPRI's publications and the manager of internal and external projects involving capacity building, evaluation and assessment. Brian also leads the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative, a project funded by the Lilly Endowment to improve job placement outcomes at HBCUs and PBIs.

Immediately prior to joining UNCF, Brian served as Vice Provost for Diversity, Access and Equity at Ohio University. Brian has also served as the Associate Director for the Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity (CAREE) at the American Council on Education (ACE) and held various roles at the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), including Associate Director. While at NSSE, Brian managed the Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS) project, a national initiative funded by Lumina Foundation to assist minority-serving institutions' use of NSSE results for institutional improvement. In addition, he has served on numerous panels and advisory committees on issues related to HBCUs, learning environments at minority-serving institutions, and success factors for African American college students at predominately white institutions.

During his tenure at UNCF, Brian has served as the lead on more than \$53 million in grant funded projects.

Brian earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University Bloomington, a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Bachelor of Arts from Francis Marion University.

Luncheon Keynote Speaker Dr. Sylvia R. Carey-Butler



Dr. Sylvia R. Carey-Butler has been an educator for over 35 years. She joined the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh in November 2013 as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Support of Inclusive Excellence. Prior to coming to Oshkosh, she served as Interim Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) Institute for Capacity Building and Director of UNCF's Enrollment Management Program. During her career, she has addressed issues of diversity and inclusiveness within college and university communities and established corporate, foundation, secondary and higher education partnerships to support access to higher education.

Prior to joining UNCF Dr. Carey-Butler served as Assistant Provost and Dean of Honors at Dillard University in New Orleans. She also served as Associate Dean of Studies at Lafayette College in Easton, PA; she has also held numerous positions in higher education for the State of New York.

Dr. Carey-Butler is a strong and passionate advocate for education. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University; her master's degree from Binghamton University and her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including an Honorary Doctorate from the State University of New York at Oneonta, her undergraduate institution in May 2014, the SUNY Oneonta Alumni of Distinction Honor in 2014 and the 2006 Alumnae of the Year Award at SUNY-Oneonta, the first African American to receive the award. In 2005 she received the Provost's Extra Mile Award at Dillard University. Dr. Carey-Butler was the 1996 recipient of Lafayette College's People Choice Award, an honor she is very proud of to this day because she was overwhelmingly selected for the award by students. Dr. Carey-Butler was inducted into her hometown of Schenectady, New York's School District Hall of Fame in June 2014. In December 2015, Dr. Carey-Butler received the UW System Outstanding Women of Color Award.

Dr. Carey-Butler has researched and presented extensively on student recruitment and retention in higher education, African American women administrators in the academy and African American males in higher education. She sat on Morehouse Colleges' Research Board and Chaired the Board for the Oshkosh Housing Authority and is Chair of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry.

She has been a member of her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. for 34 years and served as Co-Founding advisor to Binghamton University's Pi Eta Chapter. She has traveled extensively abroad; three to Africa, three times to South Korea, Studied at Cambridge University in England and spent a summer studying in Italy. She has visited several Caribbean Islands and 42 of the U.S.'s 50 states and to ensure students become global citizens she has established a Passport Initiative at UW Oshkosh for students of color.

She is married to Master Sergeant (Retired) Paul E. Butler and has three children; Evian, Delano and Xavier.

She wants written on her tombstone that "She spent her life moving young people from uncertainty to success."

Closing Dinner Keynote Speaker
Dr. Tia Brown McNair



Dr. Tia Brown McNair is the Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success at Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in Washington, DC. She oversees both funded projects and AAC&U's continuing programs on equity, inclusive excellence, high-impact educational practices, and student success, including AAC&U's Network for Academic Renewal series of yearly working conferences. McNair also directs AAC&U's Summer Institute on High-Impact Educational Practices and Student Success. McNair serves as the project director for several AAC&U initiatives: "Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation," "Committing to Equity and Inclusive Excellence: Campus-Based Strategies for Student Success," and Purposeful Pathways: Faculty Planning and Curricular Coherence." She directed AAC&U's projects on "Advancing Underserved Student Success through Faculty Intentionality in Problem-Centered Learning," "Advancing Roadmaps for Community College Leadership to Improve Student Learning and Success," and "Developing a Community College Roadmap. McNair chaired AAC&U's Equity Working Group that was part of the General Education Maps and Markers (GEMs) project that represented a large-scale, systematic effort to provide "design principles" for 21st-century learning and long-term student success. She is the lead author of the book *Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success* (July 2016). McNair is a co-author on the publication *Assessing Underserved Students' Engagement in High-Impact Practices*. Prior to joining AAC&U, McNair served as the Assistant Director of the National College Access Network (NCAN) in Washington, DC. McNair's previous experience also includes serving as a Social Scientist/Assistant Program Director in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Director of University Relations at the University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia; the Statewide Coordinator for the Educational Talent Search Project at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; and the Interim Associate Director of Admissions and Recruitment Services at West Virginia State University. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at several institutions where she taught first-year English courses. McNair earned her bachelor's degree in political science and English at James Madison University and holds an M.A. in English from Radford University and a doctorate in higher education administration from George Washington University.