

## Sponsorship / Partnership

HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Program continues its partnership with Virginia State University's Women's LeadHERship Institute for its second annual "A Day in LeadHERship" conference on March 27, 2025, at the Gateway Dining & Event Center. The event, recognizing Women's History Month, featured discussions to inspire and empower women at VSU, fostering collaboration and idea exchange to cultivate future leaders.

**ECMC**  
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 **HBCU  
Executive  
Leadership  
Institute**  
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

HBCU Executive Leadership Institute



## Willa B. Player Executive Leaders Program

Clark Atlanta University



**2025-2026**  
Willa B. Player Executive Leaders



## HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Executive Leaders Program at CAU

The HBCU Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) at CAU's Willa B. Player Executive Leaders Program (WBP) is an initiative crafted to fortify leadership in higher education.

Named in honor of Dr. Willa B. Player - the trailblazing president of Bennett College who led the institution to groundbreaking accreditation and championed human rights causes—the program offers immersive leadership, mentorship, and strategic development resources to new and experienced executive leaders shaping the future of education and community progress.

Built upon ELI's 13 leadership competencies and focusing on wellness practices, the program's robust curriculum undergirds participants capacity to lead with vision, resilience, and cultural stewardship with an emphasis on supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

## Meet The Team



**Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, PhD.**  
HBCU ELI Executive Director &  
18th President, Bennett College



**Juliette B. Bell, PhD.**  
HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Program Coordinator &  
15th President, University of Maryland Eastern Shore



**Ms. Tye Andrews**  
Program Manager  
HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Program



**Ms. Betelihem Beshir**  
Research & Data Clerk  
HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Program

## WBP Group Coaching

The WBP Program provides group coaching session with key content experts who focus on leadership and development, crisis awareness and mental, physical and emotional health among others.

### Strengthening Board Relations

Enhancing communication and collaboration between institutional leadership and the board to support strategic governance.



**Dr. Shirley M. Malcom**  
Senior Advisor and Director SEA Change  
at the American Association for the  
Advancement of Science (AAAS)

### Developing Legislative /Policymaker Support

Engaging with local, state, and national policymakers to enhance their knowledge of your institution's value, strengths, and needs, and to promote its great work.



**Dr. Colette Burnett**  
President Emerita  
Huston - Tillotson University



**Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins**  
HBCU ELI Executive Director  
18th President, Bennett College

### Cultivating Donors

Understanding the process and role of the president in working with Institutional Advancement to develop and cultivate private, corporate, and foundation donors.



**Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis**  
14th President and CEO  
Benedict College

### Building Trust

Developing an institutional foundation of trust among and between institutional leaders and their constituents.



**Dr. Lester C. Newman**  
President Emeritus  
Jarvis Christian University

### Effectively Engaging Alumni

Motivating and activating alumni engagement with and on behalf of their alma mater; encouraging contribution of the three T's (Time, Talent, and Treasure).



**Dr. Michael Sorrell**  
President  
Paul Quinn College

## June Residency

The June Residency will take place on Clark Atlanta University's Campus June 8, 2026 through June 10, 2026. The Residency will consist of professional development workshops and a restorative wellness retreat.



Please scan to view the  
HBCU ELI's Competency  
Framework



# Day One: Monday, June 8, 2026

**11:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

Location: Signia Hotel, 5th Floor

**11:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Transport from Embassy Suites to Signia Hotel**

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**12:00 P.M.**

**Registration and Lunch at Signia Hotel**

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**1:00 P.M.**

**Welcome and Introductions –**



**Dr. Juliette Bell**  
Moderator



**Dr. Phyllis Dawkins**  
Facilitator



**Dr. Tashion Macon**  
Wellness Facilitator



**1:15 P.M.**

## **Emotional Intelligence: Interactive Coaching Session**



**Dr. Marsha Schrage**

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**2:00 – 3:30 P.M.**

**Group 1:** Wellness Spa Treatment (Select 2 from Signia Express Massage, Express Facials, or Mani/Pedi)

**Group 2:** Interactive Coaching Session: 'The Well Within: Reclaiming Our Inner Overflow' (Dr. Macon)

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**3:30 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Group 1:** Interactive Coaching Session: 'The Well Within: Reclaiming Our Inner Overflow' (Dr. Macon)

**Group 2:** Wellness Spa Treatment (Select 2 from Signia Express Massage, Express Facials, or Mani/Pedi)

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**5:00-5:30 P.M.**

**Wrap-Up – Moderator, Facilitator, and Dr. Macon**

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**5:30 P.M.**

**Bus transportation to Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park**

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**6:30 P.M.**

**Dinner**

Ruth's Chris Steak House

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# Day Two: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

**8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.** AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

**6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.** Presidents reception  
CAU Museum of Arts

## **8:30 A.M.**

**Transport from Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park Hotel to AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library**

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## **Registration and Lunch on Campus**

- Program Sessions on CAU campus
  - Moderator: Dr. Juliette B. Bell, ELI Willa B. Player Executive Leaders Program Coordinator
  - Facilitator: Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, ELI Executive Director
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## **9:00 A.M - 9:15 A.M.**

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**



**Dr. Juliette Bell**  
Moderator



**Dr. Phyllis Dawkins**  
Facilitator



**9:15 A.M.**

## **Empowering Women Leaders at HBCUs**



**Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum**

**President Emerita**

**Spelman College**

**10:00 A.M.**

## **Professional Development for Women Leaders**



**Dr. Gloria D. Thomas**

**President**

**HERS Institute for Women**

**10:45 A.M.**

## **Break**

**11:00 A.M.**

## **Cultivating Donors & Funding the Future**



**Dr. Marguerite**

**McClinton Stoglin**

**Senior VP & Philanthropic Strategist**

**Bank of America**

**11:45 AM.**

## **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks**



**12:30 – 2:00 P.M**

**Keynote Luncheon session**

Robert W. Woodruff Library



**Dr. Johnetta B. Cole**

**President Emerita**

Spelman College

**14th president**

Bennett College

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**2:30 P.M.**

**Bus transportation to the Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park.**

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**6:00 P.M.**

**Presidents reception CAU Museum of Arts  
(optional)**

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# Day Three: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

**8:30 A.M.**

## Registration & Greetings

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

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**9:00 A.M.**

## Delivering Academic Excellence



**Raymond Sass**  
Senior Vice  
President, Education  
Lightcast



**Dr. Vann R. Newkirk, Sr.**  
President,  
Wilberforce University  
  
Former President,  
Fisk University

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**10:45 A.M.**

## Delivering Academic Excellence; Shared Faculty Governance



**Dr. Adena Williams Loston**  
President  
St. Philip's College

**American Association  
of University Professors  
Representative; TBD**

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**12:30 P.M.**

## Lunch

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

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**2:00 P.M.**

## Leading Through These Challenging Times

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

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# Introducing the HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Executive Leaders\*



**Dr. Cynthia Anthony**  
**President**  
Lawson State Community College



**Dr. Gina S. Brown**  
**President**  
Oakwood University



**Dr. LaTania Collins Smith**  
**President**  
Harris-Stowe State University



**Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston**  
**Interim President**  
Augusta Technical College



**Dr. Safiya George**  
**President**  
University of the Virgin Islands



**Dr. Aubra Grantt**  
**Chancellor**  
Southern University Shreveport



**Dr. Teresa Hardee**  
**Interim President**  
Bennett College

\*Confirmed and/or Invited



# Introducing the HBCU ELI Willa B. Player Executive Leaders\*



**Dr. Ruth Jackson**  
**President**  
Langston University



**Ms. Marva Johnson, J.D.**  
**President**  
Florida A&M University



**Dr. Denise Jones Gregory**  
**Interim President**  
Jackson State University



**Dr. Glenell M. Lee-Pruitt**  
**President**  
Jarvis Christian University



**Dr. Tomika LeGrande**  
**President**  
Prairie View A&M University



**Dr. Adena Williams Loston**  
**President**  
St. Philip's College



**Dr. Pamela Richardson Wilks**  
**President**  
Clinton College

\*Confirmed and/or Invited

