

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.



Anne Mullen Orrell
CHARITABLE TRUST



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HBCU Executive Leadership Institute



Willa B. Player
Executive
Leaders Program

Clark Atlanta University



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

12:00 P.M.

Registration and Lunch at Signia Hotel

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

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)

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)

5:00-5:30 P.M.

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

5:30 P.M.

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

6:30 P.M.

Dinner

Ruth’s Chris Steak House



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

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

Spleman College

14th president

Bennett College

2:30 P.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

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



Day Three: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

8:30 A.M.

Registration & Greetings

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

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

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**

12:30 P.M.

Lunch

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library

2:00 P.M.

Leading Through These Challenging Times

AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library



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

