



HBCU
Executive
Leadership
Institute
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

2026

Board President Affinity Program



CLARK ATLANTA
UNIVERSITY

ABOUT *the Program*

The HBCU Executive Leadership Institute launched its inaugural President-Chancellor and Board Affinity Group in 2026 as a strategic initiative designed to strengthen one of higher education's most critical partnerships: the collaboration between presidents, chancellors, and their governing boards. The initial cohort includes ten participants: five HBCU presidents and chancellors, representing both public and private institutions, alongside their respective board chairs or board members. This initiative centers on structured dialogue focused on governance effectiveness, leadership collaboration, and institutional stability. By creating a dedicated environment for joint learning and open communication, the program seeks to deepen mutual understanding of governance roles and foster the alignment necessary for sustained institutional advancement.

The 2026 cohort reflects the diversity of governance structures and strategic challenges across HBCUs. A central objective of the program is to support stronger, more enduring presidential tenures. Both research and sector experience underscore that the quality of the board-president relationship is a decisive factor in leadership continuity and overall institutional progress.

The program is led by Dr. Lester C. Newman and Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr. Their extensive experience in presidential leadership and governance across public and private HBCU systems provides participants with invaluable insights into effective governance and executive leadership.

Over the course of the year, participants will engage in facilitated discussions, governance case studies, and peer exchanges designed to build trust, clarify accountability, and strengthen the strategic partnership between presidents and their boards. The Affinity Group exemplifies the Institute's ongoing commitment to advancing leadership capacity and governance excellence across HBCUs.

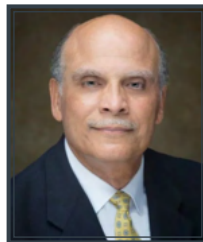




PROGRAM *Leadership*



Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins
 HBCU ELI Executive Director
 Clark Atlanta University
 18th President
 Bennett College



Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr.
 Co-Program Coordinator
 Clark Atlanta University
 President Emeritus
 North Carolina Agr & Tech State University



Dr. Lester C. Newman
 Co-Program Coordinator
 Clark Atlanta University
 President Emeritus
 Jarvis Christian University



Dr. Mary A. Hooper
 Associate Provost
 Online Learning and Continuing Ed.
 Professor, Educational Leadership
 Clark Atlanta University



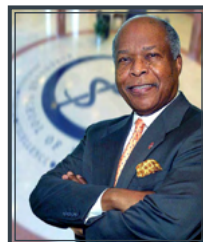
Ms. Tye Stinson Andrews
 Program Manager
 HBCU Executive Leadership Institute
 Clark Atlanta University



Mr. Lewis Milton
 Graduate Research Assistant
 HBCU Executive Leadership Institute
 Clark Atlanta University



Dr. George T. French, Jr.
 President
 Clark Atlanta University
 Former President
 Miles College



Dr. Louis W. Sullivan
 Chair
 HBCU ELI Advisory Board
 President Emeritus
 Morehouse School of Medicine



Dr. Johnny Parham
 Vice Chair
 HBCU ELI Advisory Board
 Retired Executive Director
 Thurgood Marshall College Fund

UNCF



Dr. Walter Kimbrough
 Executive Director
 Institute for Capacity Building
 UNCF



Mr. Ed Smith-Lewis
 Senior Vice President
 Strategic Partnerships + ICB
 UNCF



Ms. Aja Johnson
 Senior Program Manager
 Executive Leadership UNCF +ICB
 UNCF



Dr. Elfred A. Pinkard
 President
 Wilberforce University
 Founding Executive Director
 Institute for Capacity Building
 UNCF

TEN COMPETENCIES

for HBCU Governing Boards

1. Stewards Mission, Institutional Vision, and Legacy.

The Board stewards the institution's historic mission while advancing growth and long-term sustainability.

2. Manages Presidential Partnership and Accountability.

The Board cultivates and maintains a trust-based partnership with the President grounded in clarity, support, and accountability.

3. Creates Clarity and Aligned Accountability.

The Board maintains clear distinctions between governance, management, and operations.

4. Governs Strategically with Prioritized Focus.

The Board governs with disciplined attention to a limited set of strategic priorities.

5. Exercises Fiduciary Oversight and Ensures Financial Sustainability.

The Board safeguards institutional resources and ensures financial integrity and sustainability.

6. Engages in Constructive Deliberation and Resolves Conflict.

The Board engages in respectful, informed debate and resolves issues constructively.

7. Models Ethical Leadership and Accountability.

The Board models ethical conduct consistent with institutional values and public trust.

8. Respects Shared Governance and Institutional Relationships.

The Board strengthens institutional effectiveness by honoring shared governance and stakeholder relationships.

9. Builds Board Capacity through Composition and Development.

The Board ensures it possesses the expertise, diversity, and preparation required for effective governance.

10. Commits to Governance Effectiveness and Continuous Improvement.

The Board continuously improves its governance practice through reflection and learning.



THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

6:00 PM

PROGRAM Schedule

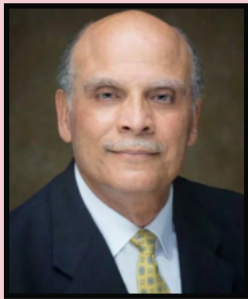
Board & President Affinity Group Orientation



Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins

HBCU ELI Executive Director
Clark Atlanta University

18th President
Bennett College



Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr.

Co-Program Coordinator
Board-President Affinity Group
Clark Atlanta University

President Emeritus
North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University



Dr. Lester C. Newman

Co-Program Coordinator
Board-President Affinity Group
Clark Atlanta University

President Emeritus
Jarvis Christian University

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

6:00 PM

Orientation & Structured Assessment



Dr. Mary Hooper

Associate Provost for Online Learning and Continuing Education
Clark Atlanta University



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

6:00 PM

Commits to Governance Effectiveness and Continuous Improvement



Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Esq.

Senior Fellow
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Former Senior VP and Secretary
Howard University



Dr. Antoine M. Garibaldi

President Emeritus and Distinguished University Professor
University of Detroit Mercy

Former President
Gannon University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

6:00 PM

Ethical Leadership & Accountability + Conflict of Interest



Dr. Ashleigh Brown-Grier

Founder + CEO
International HBCU Xchange, Inc.

Research Fellow
Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy



Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Esq.

Senior Fellow
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Former Senior VP and Secretary
Howard University

RESIDENCY | TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

12:00 PM

Registration

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology

12:00 PM

What is Required of HBCU Leaders in These Challenging Times

Thomas W. Cole Exhibition Hall



Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole

President Emerita
Spelman College
Former Chair of the Board of Trustees
United Way of America

1:30 PM

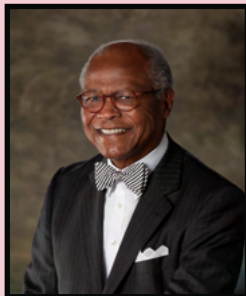
Board-Presidents Affinity Program Executive Coaching

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology

2:30 PM

Fiduciary Oversight and Sustainability & Board Composition and Development

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology



Dr. Alvin Schexnider

Senior Fellow, Senior Consultant
Advancing Board Excellence
Former Chancellor
Winston-Salem University



Dr. Marguerite McClinton Stoglin

Senior Vice President + Philanthropic Strategist
Bank of America



Mr. Gerald Hector

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Morehouse School of Medicine
Former Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance
University of Central Florida

**RESIDENCY | TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026** *(continued)*

4:00 PM

Testing Competencies for Inter-rater Reliability

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology

**Dr. Mary Hooper**Associate Provost
Online Learning and Continuing EducationProfessor
Educational Leadership
Clark Atlanta University

4:30 PM

Return to Hotel + Free Time

Charter Bus from Clark Atlanta University to Hilton Signia

5:30 PM

Transportation to President's Reception

Charter Bus from Hilton Signia to Historic Holly Hill

6:00 PM

President's Reception

Historic Holly Hill

8:00 PM

Transportation to Hotel

Charter Bus from Historic Holly Hill to Hilton Signia

We, today, stand on the shoulders of our predecessors who have gone before us. We, as their successors, must catch the torch of freedom and liberty passed on to us by our ancestors. We cannot lose in this battle.

Dr. Johnnetta Cole

*7th President of Spelman College &
Spelman's first African-American Woman President*

RESIDENCY | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

7:00 AM

Breakfast

Nest on 4 (inside Hilton Signia); Breakfast is on your own

8:15 AM

Transportation to Clark Atlanta University

Charter Bus from Hilton Signia to Clark Atlanta University

8:30 AM

Registration + Greetings

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology

9:00 AM

Delivering Academic Excellence

Thomas W. Cole Boardroom



Dr. Vann R. Newkirk

President
Wilberforce University

Former President
Fisk University



Mr. Raymond Sass

Senior Vice President, Education
Lightcast

Fmr Vice President for Strategy and Innovation
University of Florida

10:45 AM

Shared Faculty Governance

Thomas W. Cole Boardroom



Dr. Adena Williams Loston

President
St. Philip's College



12:00 PM

Lunch

Bishop C.L. Henderson Student Center | Juanita P. Baranco Multipurpose Room

1:00 PM

Panel | Uncertainty: Leading Through Challenging Times

Thomas W. Cole Boardroom



Dr. Ruth Jackson

President
Langston University



Dr. Pamela Richardson Wilkes

President
Clinton College



Marva Johnson, JD

President
Florida A&M University



Dr. Keith S. Hargrove

Chancellor
Elizabeth City State University



Mr. Joe Hampton

Board Chair
Stillman College



Mr. Michael White

Vice Board Chair
Florida A&M University

You can surmount the obstacles in your life if you are determined, couraged, and hard-working. Never be faint-hearted. Be resolute, but never bitter.

Ralph Johnson Bunche

Political Scientist, Diplomat, and first Black Nobel Laureate (1904-1971)

2:00 PM

Governance Roles & Boundaries — Bylaws Review & Compliance

Thomas W. Cole Boardroom



Dr. Belle Wheelan

Former President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Former Virginia Secretary of Education



Ms. Melissa Jackson Holloway, Esq.

Former Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Risk, Compliance & General Counsel
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Former Chairperson of the Board
National Association of College and University Attorneys

3:00 PM

Airport Departures

Charter Bus from Woodruff Library to Hilton Signia

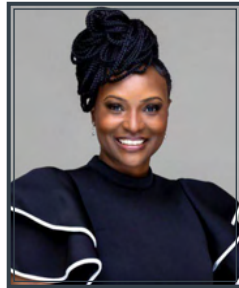


WELCOME THE 2026 BOARD-PRESIDENT AFFINITY PROGRAM

Inaugural Cohort



Dr. Maurice Gipson
President
Philander Smith College



Dr. Tionna L. Jenkins
Board Chair
Philander Smith University



Ms. Lisa Menzies-Earvin
Board Member
Philander Smith University



Dr. Yolanda W. Page
President
Stillman College



Mr. Joe Hampton
Board Chair
Stillman College



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



Ms. Leketia Blair
Board Chair
Jarvis Christian University



Dr. S. Keith Hargrove
Chancellor
Elizabeth City State University



Mr. Justin Waddell
Board Chair
Elizabeth City State University



Marva Johnson, JD
President
Florida A&M University



Mr. Michael White
Vice Board Chair
Florida A&M University

It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach.

Dr. Benjamin Mays
President, Morehouse College (1940-1967)





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CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

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<https://www.cau.edu/executive-leadership-institute>

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