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Tennessee State University Women's Center

2017

Women of Legend and Merit Awards March 21 2017

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Women of Legend and Merit Awards

TSU GENTRY COMPLEX | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
MARCH 21ST, 2017



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



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HCA/TriStar Health proudly honors Cheryl White Mason for her lifelong dedication to encourage all women to reach their full potential. We salute Cheryl's passion and commitment and applaud her leadership.



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March 21, 2017

Dear Women of Legend and Merit Honorees and Guests:

On behalf of Tennessee State University, I would like to welcome you and offer best wishes for a successful 2017 Women of Legend and Merit Award program. As we mark the tenth year of celebrating a class of outstanding and accomplished honorees, we commend them for joining a flourishing list of those whose contributions have made our university and our nation great.

We congratulate those women who continue as trailblazers in today's society by shaping history and impacting our world each and every day. They humbly accomplish this through their professional contributions, community involvement, enormous influence and much needed innovations. They represent inspiration to other young women who are witnessing the dynamic achievements and unyielding commitment that is common among these Women of Legend and Merit. These examples help to encourage our young women and strengthen their belief that they too can achieve anything that they set their minds to do.



Today's honorees recognize that they stand on the shoulders of many who came before them paving their path, and they are eager to support those who are coming after them.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our speaker for the evening, Ms. Vivica A. Fox, an award winning actress and a trailblazer in her own right; our entertainer for the evening, Ms. Angela Winbush, as well as our sponsors whose generous support makes this important effort possible. In addition, I extend my thanks to our 2017 chair, Ms. Seanne Wilson, the Women of Legend and Merit Award Committee, and the entire TSU Women's Center Advisory Board for their work in planning this wonderful affair. And, I thank all of you – our attendees – for your continued support of this event and the work we are doing at TSU that positively impacts the lives of young women.

As we celebrate the power of women, I take this opportunity to thank you for your attendance tonight. Enjoy the program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenda Baskin Glover".

Glenda Baskin Glover
President



March 14, 2017

On behalf of the Women's Center Advisory Board and the Women of Legend and Merit Committee, I wish to welcome you to the 10th Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner!

This year's event tops off and celebrates a decade of excellence, integrity, and grace here at Tennessee State University.

From the inception of the Awards Dinner in 2007 under the vision of Dr. Marcy Johnson to today under the powerful leadership of our 1st female (8th overall) President, Dr. Glenda Glover, the Tennessee State University Women's Center continues to thrive and grow.

Our Women of Legend and Merit founders, former advisory boards, and former committee members have worked tirelessly each year to provide a firm foundation for our TSU female students and, in doing so, have paved the way for generations of women to come.

This 10th year would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of this year's Women's Center Advisory Board and the Women of Legend and Merit Committee.

Tonight's dinner showcases exceptional women who empower us to work toward greatness of mind, thought, and character. These women have built a pathway for others to follow, and we appreciate them and you for your support of all women.

I have had the privilege of serving as Chair for this year's planning committee, and I wish to express my appreciation for this opportunity to work, grow, and succeed.

As a proud alumna of Tennessee State University, I hope you enjoy this evening's event!

Sincerely,

Seanne Wilson
Chair, 2017 Women of Legend and Merit Committee





Mistress of Ceremony

Miss Tyra Laster

Alicia Renea Jones was born in Memphis, Tennessee on September 25th, 1995. She was born to the parents of Tarsha Jones and Jerald Bailey, the only child her mother conceived and the third oldest of six on her father's side of the family. Ms. Jones was raised in Memphis, Tennessee and from an early age excelled in academics, performing arts and sports. Ms. Jones participated in hip-hop dancing, softball, broadcasting, and many educational after school programs. While in high school, Ms. Jones received Honor roll three years consecutively and wore the crown of basketball Homecoming Queen for the class of 2013.

During her tenure at Tennessee State University while studying mass communications with a concentration in journalism, Ms. Jones was heavily involved in student activity. She was crowned Miss Pep Club 2014-15 and Miss Zeta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. 2015-2016. She is the Co-Host for the Morning Glory Radio Show on WTST The blaze radio station. She placed fourth runner up in the Miss HBCU Hall of Fame pageant. Ms. Jones is a member of the University Honors Program maintaining at 3.6 or above GPA throughout her tenure of her undergraduate studies, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, NAACP, TSU National Society of Leadership and Success, TSU News 98, National Council of Negro Women Inc., Hip'Notyze Dance Troupe, Pre Alumni Council, Junior class secretary for the 75th Administration of SGA, and a recipient of the Live Above Scholarship Award.



Ms. Jones currently serves as Miss Tennessee State University for the 2016-2017 academic school year and Miss Southwestern Region 2017 for Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. She is the creator of INSPIRATIONAL WEDNESDAY where she writes inspirational quotes to uplift and motivate students and administration on campus. Inspirational Wednesday mission is to serve, mentor, and lead future leaders.

Alicia stands firmly on the words of the bible, Romans 8:31, "What then can we say in response to these things? If God is for us, then who could be against us?" She also believes in the quote by John C. Maxwell, "In the end, it's not the size of the project that determines its acceptance, support, and success. It's the size of the leader." Her post graduation plans include graduate school where she will receive her Masters Degree in K-12 educational leadership or psychology, working for Nashville Teaching Residency or Teach For America, and continuing her brand of motivational speaking.



Guest Speaker

Ms. Vivica A. Fox

Vivica A. Fox has been in the business long enough to achieve a successful career as an actress. Vivica A. Fox epitomizes success. The Hollywood screen gem has triumphantly built an international brand that stands on the strength that women can do anything. With an extensive body of work that encompasses unforgettable television, stage and film credits, Vivica is an inspiration as a Hollywood actress, producer, generous philanthropist and accomplished businesswoman.

Born in South Bend, Indiana, Vivica's family relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana when she was four. After graduating from Arlington High School, where she participated in various sports activities, including basketball, track, volleyball and cheerleading, the Midwestern beauty ultimately gave up sports to pursue a modeling and acting career. With the support of family and friends, the budding star headed to California to attend Golden West College in Huntington Beach, where she earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Sciences.

Determined to succeed, Vivica hit the Los Angeles audition circuit and was discovered by Hollywood producer Trevor Walton. It wasn't long before the offers started pouring in. Soap opera stints on "The Young and The Restless," "Days of Our Lives" and "Generations" led to more sitcom and modeling work. But in 1996, Vivica's big break came when she scored a role in the summer blockbuster "Independence Day" alongside Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum. In 2016, Vivica appeared in the sequel, "Independence Day, Resurgence."

Vivica has also become a fan favorite on the hit television show "Empire," starring opposite Golden Globe winner Taraji P. Henson, as Cookie's older sister. In the reality show realm, Vivica is producing and starring in a show on the Lifetime network. She's also had a hand in a string of other reality shows, such as "Celebrity Apprentice" and VH1's "Mob Wives" Season 5 reunion.

Vivica recently teamed up with exercise guru Shaun T of Beach Bodies for their new workout infomercial T25 Focus, where the performer shares with fans her exercise and fitness routine, as well as a few secrets.

Vivica has received numerous honors, including several NAACP awards and the prestigious Spirit Award. She has also been voted one of People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People."

Aside from numerous film, television and other projects in the works, Vivica's own empire continues to grow as this versatile Hollywood legend continues to inspire, indulge and entertain an international fan base.





Musical Entertainment

Ms. Angela Winbush

St. Louis born , producer, songwriter, recording artist and extraordinary singer/entertainer, A'ngela Winbush has consistently shown her ability to break new ground for women musically, vocally and artistically. And more importantly, she is also a Stage III Ovarian Cancer Survivor and recipient of the 2007 Survivor Eagle Award that will let you know her motto is "I'm living out loud , walking tall and proud by God's grace". She's one of only a few women that has had chart topping success and critical acclaim producing and writing music on multiple artists and herself. She has written for and produced such artists as Stephanie Mills, "I've Learned To Respect the Power of Love", "My First Love" on Avant & KeKi, Gold & Platinum on Janet Jackson "Young Love", Sheena Easton, LaLah Hathaway "Baby Don't Cry", including 5 multi platinum albums on the Isley Brothers and Ron Isley, on Keith Sweat, and the opening song for the Ice Cube movies "Fridays" and featured on Rod Stewart's albums. A'ngela's music has also been sampled by the likes of JayZ, Foxy Brown, P-Diddy, Lil' Kim and excerpts of her music are found in Erika Badu to Anthony Hamilton to current Hip- Hop, R&B and Pop artists, too numerous to name.



Winbush is a graduate of Howard University in Washington D.C. with a BME (Bachelor of Music Education) and Dean's Honor Roll certificates, after having studied and also majored in Architecture and City Planning at Howard and Maryville University. She sang in church and professionally earning money to pay for books and education. While working on her Masters, and awaiting her undergraduate May 1977 graduation ceremony, her solo demo tape had landed in the hands of NY radio man Gary Byrd which led to Stevie Wonder hiring and moving her right after graduation, to Hollywood to start a career with Wonderlove as a backup singer, writer and talent. In 1980 Winbush met Rene Moore while she was still in Wonderlove and formed a duo, Rene and A'ngela. From that came a successful combination of music and recording contracts with Capitol Records first – hits "I Love You More", "Imaginary Playmates"(Wall to Wall album) and "My First Love"(the "RISE" album), then a 4 song production on Janet Jackson's first Gold Album entitled "Janet Jackson", which eventually went Platinum. In 1985 the duo signed with what is now Island/ Def Jam(Polygram) their one and only label debut was "Street Called Desire", which went Gold first, then Platinum, yielding two #1's "Save Your Love for #1, w/ Kurtis Blow, and "Your Smile" and 2 -#2's "I'll Be Good" and "You Don't Have To Cry" R&B and Pop singles internationally.

By 1986, Winbush's writing abilities led to being approached by Warner Records, to meet and produce Ron Isley. Her first kick out of the gate was a penned and produced 1987 Gold/Platinum album on the Isley Brothers featuring Ron Isley. After which her own label got on board for her to do a solo recording which spawned the number 1's and popular singles and label debuts "Angel", "Hello Beloved," "You Had A Good Girl" "Run To Me" on her Grammy Nominated "Sharp" album/ CD. From this body of work, she continued to produce and write the bulk of Isley's Platinum albums and oversee the behind the scenes business on works such as, "Spend The Night", "Mission To Please" embodying writing with R. Kelly, right up to creating with R. Kelly the Mr. Biggs musical persona, to the 2002 release of Grammy winning "Contagious". Also during this time, Winbush did extensive writing and production on MCA/Universal artists, such as Stephanie Mills (Gold album and single "Something In The Way You Make Me Feel",) owning and running her Golden Lady Studios & Offices, and production company also on (MCA/Universal Records).

Her live shows and concerts are year round featured as special guest with artists such as Frankie Beverly, Keith Sweat, Jeffrey Osborne, Dru Hill, and Cameo, and she does guest radio and TV appearances(as seen on TV One and Tom Joyner), and speaking engagements on life and Cancer awareness & prevention. Her goal is to complete her CD and book, as she currently works on her Masters/ with a focus in Counseling. Her desire is to have her own radio and/ TV show so that she can educate, touch and make a difference in as many lives as possible while entertaining.



Women of Legend and Merit Awards

EVENT HISTORY

The Women of Legend and Merit Awards dinner was a vision of former Tennessee State University First Lady, Dr. Marcy D. Johnson. Upon arriving to TSU, Dr. Marcy, as she is affectionately known by students, immediately became engaged with the students, particularly the female students because of her experiences attending an all-female college and later serving as Dean at an all-female college. After encountering a young woman who had been abused by her boyfriend, this unsettling meeting began her vision for the establishment of a Women's Center on campus.

She began to share her concerns with TSU alumna Xernona Clayton, founder, CEO and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and the annual Trumpet Awards, expressing her desire to empower young women at TSU. These conversations led to the idea of establishing an event to honor women who have made outstanding contributions to society. Through planning this effort, the goal was to create a platform in which TSU students would witness firsthand the possibilities that lay ahead for them. A small group of passionate, but powerful and committed women were soon assembled on campus to make this dream a reality, resulting in the inaugural Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner being held March 2007. The inaugural chair was Michelle Viera. Through the years, the response from the university and community has been outstanding.

That first awards program led to the development of the TSU Women's Center on campus. Just two months after the inaugural Women of Legend and Merit event, the groundwork for a Women's Center on campus began in an effort to give female students the resources they need to succeed in and outside of the classroom.

The Women of Legend and Merit Awards has become a signature event in support of the Women's Center at Tennessee State University. It is designed to raise awareness and funding in support of the TSU Women's Center. Since its inception, nearly 40 women have been honored and have received the exclusive "glass slipper" award signifying the delicacy, class and valuable characteristics of women.





Women of Legend and Merit Awards

2017 Honorees

Athletics

Teresa Phillips

Athletics Director, Tennessee State University

Community Service

Yvette Boyd

Coordinator, R. H. Boyd Family Endowment Fund
R. H. Boyd Publishing

Legal

Cheryl White Mason

Vice President - Litigation, HCA
Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt Law School

Media

Vicki Yates

News Anchor, News Channel 5- WTVF

Medicine

Dr. Stephaine Walker

Neonatologist & Assistant Professor
Vanderbilt University



Order of Program

Mistress of Ceremony

Miss Tennessee State University 2016-2017

Alicia Jones

Processional of Honorees	Ms. Kelli Sharpe Assistant Vice President of Public Relations and Communications
Meditation	Dr. Jewell F. Winn Women of Legend & Merit Committee
Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony	Ms. Kelli Sharpe Assistant Vice President of Public Relations and Communications
Greetings	President Glenda Glover Tennessee State University
Occasion/Overview	Miss Treasure Giddens Student Government Association
Special Award	Mrs. Sandra D. Hair Hunt Women of Legend and Merit Committee
<i>“Lifetime Achievement” - Mrs. Hattie Bryant</i>	
Special Award	Dr. Samantha Morgan-Curtis Women of Legend & Merit Committee
	Dr. Jewell F. Winn Women of Legend & Merit Committee
<i>“Rising Star” - Miss Kayla Daniels</i>	
Prayer & Introduction of Guest Speakers	Dean Frank Stevenson Women of Legend & Merit Committee
Guest Singer/Entertainer	Ms. Angela Winbush
Guest Band	Joe Johnson and Band



Dinner & Entertainment

TSU Jazz Combo - Dr. Sean Daniels, Director

Salute to Honoree Ms. Jennifer Bell
Women of Legend and Merit Committee

Athletics - Ms. Teresa Phillips

Salute to Honoree Ms. Peggy Earnest
Women of Legend and Merit Committee

Community Service - Mrs. Yvette Boyd

Salute to Honoree Ms. Claudia Humphrey
Women's Center Advisory Board

Media - Ms. Vicki Yates

Special Video Presentation

Salute to Honoree Mrs. Cynthia B. Brooks
Women of Legend and Merit Committee

Legal - Ms. Cheryl White Mason

Salute to Honoree State Representative Brenda Gilmore
Women's Center Advisory Board

Medicine - Dr. Stephanie Walker

Introduction of Guest Speaker Mr. Grant Winrow
Women of Legend and Merit Committee

Guest Speaker Ms. Vivica Fox

Remarks State Representative Brenda Gilmore
Women's Center Advisory Board

Mrs. Mary Boyd
Women's Center Advisory Board

Acknowledgments of Sponsors Mrs. Marie Sueing
Women of Legend and Merit Committee

Closing Remarks Ms. Seanne Wilson
Chair, Women of Legend and Merit Committee



Honoree

Mrs. Hattie Bryant “Lifetime Achievement”

Hattie Crutchfield Bryant was born in Lebanon, Tennessee in 1923, the sixth of seven children of James and Hattie Crutchfield. Her early childhood education came by way of the Wilson County Training School, a Julius Rosenwald Foundation school built with combined funding from the community during segregation when no public education was available to African-Americans in most Southern states. She graduated from high school in 1941 where she was president of her class. Her education continued at what was then Tennessee A&I State College.

Due to her home town of Lebanon needing teachers, Mrs. Bryant began teaching before graduating from Tennessee A&I. Her first position was as the third grade teacher at Market Street Elementary School. She completed her studies while teaching, received her degree then moved on to the sixth grade; teaching there for 20 years. A monumental move was made in 1965 when she received a call from the superintendent of the Lebanon Special School District asking her to change schools. She would become the first African American teacher to desegregate the school system when she was transferred to Lebanon Junior High School as the seventh grade social studies teacher. She continued teaching when the new Walter J. Baird Middle School was built. She retired after a total of 34 years of teaching.



After retirement, Mrs. Bryant became involved in many civic and political activities. She was very active in the Democratic party, campaigning for Al Gore, Jr from his successful run for the US Senate through seeking the nomination for president in both 1988 and 1992. She represented her district as a delegate to the 1988 convention and then attended both Clinton/Gore inaugurations. During this time, she was the first African American president of the Wilson County Democratic Women. She served on several selection committees for her US Congressman Bart Gordon. Her local involvement was made up volunteering and serving on the selection board for the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, the City of Lebanon Beautification Committee, and the Lebanon Help Center. She was a founding member of the Wilson County Civic League that formed for the empowerment and support for their community where she continues to serve on the Board. She is a founding member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary #179. A lifelong member of the Market St Church of Christ, her devotion has supported their VBS and Youth Membership Programs.

She served on the Board of Directors for Liberty State Bank for which she and her husband were founding directors. She has been honored with awards from the Lebanon Rotary Clubs, Lion's Club and the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce.

Her most prestigious honor came when a new middle school was to be built. She was selected as one of the namesakes. In 2011 the Winfree-Bryant Middle School opened. This honor not only recognized her long career, but also the historical significance of her being the first African American teacher in the desegregation of this school system.

Hattie married her college sweetheart, James Harold Bryant. She has two children – James, Jr. and Marilyn – 5 grandchildren, and numerous great, and great-great grandchildren. She continues to live in the home that she and her husband built with their own hands and stays active enjoying her 93 years of life. There is an abundance of appreciation to TSU Women's Center for her selection as a recipient of the 2017 Women of Legend and Merit Award.



Honoree

Miss Kayla Daniels

“Rising Star”

My attending college was a very big accomplishment for my family and me. I knew that once I finished high school I wanted to further my education, and that a higher degree would guarantee a better chance for a great career. College, however, has put my family in very bad financial situation. Both of my parents are currently in college so they have their own tuition plus my younger sister's fees as she is very involved in her high school.

I want to stay at Tennessee State University, but it will be very hard for my family to continue paying a total of 20,000 dollars a year for me to stay. Receiving a scholarship will take a huge load off of my parents when it comes to my tuition. I believe I deserve scholarship opportunities from the Women's Center and Tennessee State University because of my delightful work ethic and my warm personality.

My first semester of college was very challenging financially for my parents because Federal Student Aid, also known as FAFSA did not give my family enough money to cover my tuition. After making many calls and many trips to the financial aid office, my parents applied for the Parent Plus Loan. We were very thankful that we found a loan to help bring my balance down, but it still was not enough to cover the entire balance. The payment plan my parents were on was working perfectly until my parent's money at home was cut in half. They sometimes had to choose whether to pay my tuition or their mortgage.

There were a couple of months when my parents chose to pay their mortgage so our family would not get evicted so they did not continue with the payment plan because of the economic hardships at home. My balance increased. By the time registration opened for Spring 2017 classes I had a hold on my account for \$1,101.00 dollars. In order to register for classes your balance has to be under 1,000 dollars. With this balance being more than \$1,000.00 dollars I could not register for classes which was very stressful for my entire family.

The Women's Center, Ms. Seanne Wilson, and Dean Frank Stevenson offered me a scholarship which took care of my balance and I was able to register for classes a few days before classes in the spring. I believe I am deserving of scholarship opportunities for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 because of my amazing work ethic. As a Business Administration student with a dual concentration in Management and Marketing I finished my first semester of college with a 3.2 GPA. I worked hard in all my classes and I made sure I put all my effort into my classes. I also put my effort into volunteer experiences.

I offered to work with the Women's Center during my first year of college, and I've had many opportunities to assist Ms. Seanne with student events. I worked with the Women's Center during the TSU Scholarship Gala for homecoming week, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk/Run, the Women's Center collaboration with the Nashville Links as well as Diversity & International Affairs – for the International Collegiate Pageant Tea, multiple Women's Symposiums, and finally the first EVER Sadie Hawkins Valentines Dinner and Dance. I enjoy working with the Tennessee State University Women's Center to assist other young women like me. While volunteering with these events I make sure that I put all my effort into making each event successful and impactful.

I love helping others and making sure that everyone is okay and making sure people are living up to their potential. I love working with others and making everyone smile. I believe that if you make others smile, then blessings will come your way.





Honoree

Teresa Phillips

"Athletics"

Teresa Lawrence-Phillips became head of the Tennessee State University athletics department in April of 2002. As director, the athletic department has made tremendous strides on the playing field, campus, community and classroom.

Some accomplishments under the Phillips' administration include the launching of the first official website for TSU Athletics in August of 2002, increased sponsorships for the Division of Athletics, the recognition of Ohio Valley Conference Scholar Athletes, the awarding of the NCAA Pilot Grant, the construction of an Indoor Practice Facility, athletic facility upgrades, football's return to Hale Stadium, several conference and tournament championships in women's basketball, volleyball and women's track as well as a PGA Minority National Championship in men's golf.

Phillips also has the distinction of being the first woman ever to coach an NCAA Division I men's basketball team en route to being named one of the 101 Most Influential Minorities in Sports by Sports Illustrated in 2003. During the 2014 Women's Final Four, she was named as a one of 10 Legends in Women's Basketball in Tennessee. She was also recognized as the Second Most Influential Woman in Sports in Tennessee by The Tennessean newspaper.

In addition, she was named USA Today National Coach of the Year in 1990 and was a three-time OVC Coach of the Year selection. No stranger to athletic success, she was head coach of the Lady Tigers basketball program at TSU for 11 seasons from 1989-2000. Phillips guided the 1993-94 squad to the programs first-ever OVC regular season crown, the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship, and the team's first appearance ever in the NCAA tournament.

Phillips and her staff enjoyed their most successful season in 1994-95 as the Lady Tigers (22-7, 12-4 OVC) shared the regular season title. TSU claimed its second consecutive tournament title and a trip to the NCAA tournament. She has been invited twice to serve as an assistant coach for USA Basketball (1995 and 1999) and was invited to serve as an assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic Festival North Squad. Prior to her stint at TSU, Phillips was head coach at Fisk University for four years guiding the Bulldogs to two WIAC League and Tournament Championships and being tabbed WIAC Coach of the Year twice.

She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in Economics before obtaining a Masters in Education from TSU in 1999. Phillips, who helped recruit six All-Americans and seven All-State players, served as an assistant coach with the Lady Commodores (1981-1984) winning the N.I.T. in 1983. Phillips earned several honors as a three-year letter winner at Vanderbilt. She was the first recipient of the Lady Commodore Athlete of the Year honor, given to the best all-around female athlete. She also has the honor of being the first African-American female student-athlete at Vanderbilt.

Community oriented, Phillips has been appointed to several boards and committees which include: NCAA Basketball Rules, NCAA Championship Cabinet, NCAA Administrative Cabinet, the NCAA HBCU Advisory Board, the NCAA W. Basketball Selection Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Board, Boys & Girls Club Board, the Vanderbilt Alumni Advisory Board, the Nashville Final Four Executive Board, the Girls Preparatory School Alumni Board, the Nashville Dinner of Champions Committee and the Executive Board of the Nashville Sports Council. She has held memberships in several organizations, including the Black Coaches Association, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is an inaugural member of the Girls Preparatory School Sports Hall of Fame, the Lookout Mountain Sports Hall of Fame and was honored in 2016 with the prestigious Betty Probasco Lifetime Achievement Award. She has two young adult sons, Micah and Kyle.





Honoree

Mrs. Yvette Boyd "Community Service"

Yvette Jean Duke Boyd was born May 12, 1951 in Nashville, Tennessee. Her employment history embraces a variety of experience and expertise in various disciplines. For the past 26 years, she has been the President of DonLaé Designs, which is a company specializing in interior decorating. In 2005, she was appointed the coordinator for the R.H. Boyd Family Endowment Fund of the R.H. Boyd Publishing Corporation. In this capacity she continues the legacy of five generations of Boyd's giving back by overseeing and awarding thousands of dollars in grants and scholarships to deserving students, churches, and organizations throughout the United States. In 2005 Mrs. Boyd became a Notary Public for the State of Tennessee and also launched her event planning company entitled Emerald Events.

In addition to her employment experience, Boyd gives back to the Nashville community by serving on past and present boards of many organizations including: Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center, Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts, Crittenton Services of Nashville, Metro Arts Commission, Family and Children's Services, Fannie Battle Day Home, Tennessee State Museum, Ronald McDonald House Advisory Board, Meharry Medical College Advisory Board, and the Tennessee State University Women's Center Advisory Board. She is a founding board member of Gilda's Club of Nashville and was the first African American to serve on the LHA (Ladies Hermitage Association), which is the Home of President Andrew Jackson.

Boyd has received many honors including being named in 2012 one of "Tennessee's Most Influential Women", and in 2015 from the Trumpet Awards, Boyd received "High Heels in High Places", an honor bestowed on women who are high achievers and make an impact in society. Boyd and her family was featured in an article in Ebony magazine in 2015 as being "The Coolest Black Family in America". She and her family are also featured in the newly opened Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC as a founding donor, as well as having historical artifacts from their 120 year old family business on display.

Boyd attended Tennessee State University, where she graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. In 1979, she obtained her Master of Arts in Education Degree, once again from Tennessee State University, in Special Education and has also achieved 40 postgraduate hours towards an EdD Degree from that esteemed university in Curriculum and Instructional Planning.

Mrs. Boyd is actively involved with many organizations. She is a life member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated, Faith Unlimited, Incorporated, The Girl Friends, Incorporated, National Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and is a member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

Married to Dr. T.B. Boyd, III for 32 years, the couple has four children: LaDonna Yvette, Shalae Shantel, Justin Marriel, and T.B. Boyd, IV.





Honoree

Cheryl White Mason “Legal”

Cheryl White Mason is the Vice-President of Litigation for HCA, a Fortune 100 healthcare company with more than 190 hospitals and surgery centers across the country. She is also an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt Law School.

A 1976 graduate of the University Of Chicago law School, Cheryl was the first African-American woman to make partner at the international law firm of O’Melveny & Myers, and the first woman appointed to the firm’s Management Committee. Before making partner, Cheryl left the firm for three years to serve as the Executive Director of Public Counsel, a non-profit that provides free legal services to the poor.

From 2002-2005 Cheryl was Chief of Civil Liability Management in the Los Angeles City Attorneys office. She supervised more than 100 lawyers who handled lawsuits and advised the Mayor, City Council and Los Angeles Police Department. Having previously been involved in suits challenging racial profiling, Cheryl relished the chance to work directly with City and Police Department leaders committed to positive change.

Cheryl has served on the boards of several community and legal services organizations, including, in Nashville, The Bethlehem Center, Nashville Public Television, United Way, and Girl Scouts, and in Los Angeles, the Public Policy Institute of California, the Challengers Boys & Girls Club, and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. She is a long time board member of the National Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and is Board Chair at Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church. Cheryl received an award from the ACLU for her volunteer work on an immigrants’ rights case, and was recognized for mentoring younger women professionals by the Nashville Business Journal.

A mother, daughter, sister and Godmother, Cheryl is deeply grateful for the prayers and support of family and friends, and for the sacrifices of those whose civil rights struggles opened doors for her generation. She counts it both a privilege and a responsibility to contribute to the success of younger generations of women and minorities.





Honoree

Vicki Yates

"Media"

Television reporter, news anchor, writer, community supporter – Vicki Yates has excelled in multiple careers. For Vicki, it's about finding the professional work that matches her core values and specific skills. It's about the unleashing the power and the passion that naturally arise when you're doing what you love to do.

After more than four decades as an award-winning reporter, producer, writer and voiceover talent, Vicki is still passionate about the news, driven by a natural curiosity for what's going on in the world. She started in college, working as a news reporter in Detroit, drawing some tough assignments, including the crime beat. Through the years, the essentials remain unchanged. Get the facts. Tell the truth. Connect with your audience by connecting with the story. And never compromise the trust you've built.

Winner of five Emmys, including a mini documentary "Bundles of Joy" on multiple births, a special news feature about the life of Olympian Wilma Rudolph, and Vicki's "School Patrol" news franchise... Invited to the White House for a one-on-one interview with President Barak Obama in 2011... Interviewed hundreds of people from folks-on the street to newsmakers like Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal... A familiar and trusted news anchor/reporter on Nashville airwaves as a member of NewsChannel5 since 1990.

When you've reached a certain stage of life, you know a thing or two. About the news business. About life. Sharing that wisdom through her writing has been a lifelong passion for Vicki, helping women find their voice, and their balance, in a changing world.

Creator and writer for la femme 50 (lafemme50.com), a lifestyle blog that takes a close up and personal look at life for women 50 and older, honoring their wisdom and values... Experienced writer of articles and telecasts on a variety of subjects, from the rise of bullying to covering the entertainment industry

"Give back." That's the reply Vicki recently gave in an interview with Essence magazine when asked about her philosophy of life. And for Vicki, whether it's mentoring young female reporters or volunteering for multiple charities, her actions back up her words.

Co-host for 25 years of the annual Children's Miracle Network Telethon benefiting Vanderbilt Children's Hospital... Recognized by WIN (Women In Numbers) for her trailblazing work paving the way for female journalists... Longtime supporter of Nashville Cares, an organization that assists people with AIDS... Speaker and MC for countless charity and fundraising events including Our Kids, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and families affected by child sex abuse.





Honoree

Dr. Stephanie Walker “Medicine”

Dr. Stephanie Hale Walker, a native of Los Angeles, California, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt University in 1997 and her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in 2001. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in 2004, and a fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles in 2006. Afterwards, while a Harvard University Commonwealth Fund Fellow in Minority Health Policy, she completed a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2007. That same year she was also recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award at Harvard University. Upon completing her fellowships, Dr. Walker joined the Harvard Medical Faculty Physician group as a Neonatologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center [BIDMC] and an Instructor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Pediatrics.



Dr. Walker is currently a Neonatologist on faculty at Monroe Carell Jr Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt University, where she is also an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics. In May 2009, she married Bishop Joseph Warren Walker. They are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter. She and her husband have collaborated with other visionaries in the Nashville community who share her passion for health policy, health disparities and community action to seek solutions and to improve the access to and utilization of health-related resources. Believing that finding one’s calling is about making the community in which you live better, she launched Full Circle Health Community Coalition in early 2010 to bridge the gap and bring together diverse partners to improve the health of those living in underserved communities.

In 2010, Dr. Walker, alongside her husband, founded the non-profit the Drs. Joseph & Stephanie Walker Foundation. The mission of the foundation is now primarily advanced through scholarships for students, mentorship and community outreach. The Walkers are committed to helping people help themselves and those in the world around them lead productive and satisfying lives. Targeting obesity and health literacy, in January of 2011, Dr. Walker helped lead the establishment of ChurchFIT, a Mt. Zion fitness and health awareness program. Most recently Dr. Walker was appointed to Overseer of Health and Wellness for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship where her husband serves as International Presiding Bishop. In 2016, Dr. Walker launched ChurchFIT International and now it has become a model and resource for congregations around the world. Her record of volunteerism spans the country, from mentoring teenage girls interested in health sciences, mentoring pregnant teens in New York, and teaching STD/AIDS educational programs. Dr. Walker mentors teens and young adults in Nashville in the “Lifting as We Climb” Program. In addition, she has and continues to mentor numerous undergraduate and graduate students, as well as medical, residents and fellows as they move about the country pursuing their careers.

Dr. Walker currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, as well as the Board of Directors for former Senator Bill Frist’s NashvilleHealth initiative. She also serves on the Community Marketing and Outreach Council for the Frist Center for Visual Arts. Dr. Walker, also co-authored a best selling book with her husband entitled “Becoming a Couple of Destiny” which chronicles lessons of life balance and transparency in marriage.

She is a bridge-builder, advocate, entrepreneur and caregiver. As Mt. Zion’s First Lady, Dr. Stephanie—as she is fondly called — is guided by the life philosophy that “to whomsoever much is given, much is required...”(Luke 14:48).



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Thank you to the family for their generous donation to the Women's Center.



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On behalf of the Tennessee State University Division of Student Affairs, we thank each of you for joining us on this 10th annual Women of Legend and Merit Scholarship event. This scholarship event provides us with an opportunity for us to celebrate and highlight extraordinary women of the Nashville community while upholding the mission of the Women's Center; providing resources for female administration, faculty, staff, and students, while establishing a safe, diverse and empowering environment.

While the number of Women's Centers at HBCU's has grown since the aforementioned article, we are proud to be one of the first to develop this type of resource for women at TSU. The Women of Legend and Merit Scholarship program developed in 2007 by 1st lady, Marcy Johnson serves as an opportunity to highlight these very women. We are proud of the work of Seanne Wilson, Coordinator of the Women's Center as well as the advisory board and committee of the Women of Legend and Merit and thank you all for your physical and financial support!



Student Participants

Tennessee State University is proud to recognize its 2016 - 2017 outstanding students who contributed in making tonight's program successful.

Alicia Renee Jones

Memphis, Tennessee
Major: Mass Communications, Senior
Miss Tennessee State University

Treasure Giddens

Detroit, Michigan
Major: Chemistry, Junior, Minor, Business
Concentration: Biochemistry
Student Government, Chief of Staff

Musician

Dr. Sean Daniels

Piano
Director

Derek Smith, trumpet
Jamie Fields, trumpets
Byron Fisher, bass guitar
Cicora Shipp, alto saxophone
Emmanuel Scott, drums

Escorts

Jordan Gaither

TSU Senior
Mr. Tennessee State University

William Johnson

TSU Junior

Mr. Kevin McHenry

TSU Sophomore
Mr. Sophomore

Mr. Nick Vincent

TSU Sophomore

Mr. Kalif Jones

TSU Freshman

Mr. Blake Hamilton

TSU Junior

Mr. Alan Bond

TSU Senior

Mr. Dwight Pullen

TSU Senior





Former Honorees

Athletics

Catana R. Starks (2012)
Wyomia Tyus (2011)
Edith McGuire Duvall (2010)
Barbara Jones Slater (2009)
Lucinda Williams Adams (2008)
Chandra Cheeseborough (2007)

Business

Jacky Akbari (2016)
Sherri Neal (2015)
Hortense Price-Jones (2013)
Mignon Francois (2012)
Cordia Harrington (2010)
Pamela Brooks Martin (2009)
Rosetta Miller Perry (2008)
Deborah A. Cole (2007)

Community Service

Latrisha Jemison (2016)
Renata Soto (2015)
Mary Carver-Patrick (2012)
Joyce Espy Searcy (2010)
Rep. Brenda Gilmore (2009)
Patricia A. Pierce (2008)
Andrea Conte (2007)

Education

Sandra W. Holt (2016)
Wendy Thompson (2015)
Barbara C. Murrell (2013)
Karen Brown Dunlap (2012)
Tommie Morton-Young (2011)
Rita S. Geier (2010)
Maxine A. Smith (2009)
Ivanetta Hughes Davis (2008)
Lillian Dunn Thomas (2007)

Government/Politics

Megan Barry (2016)
Phyllis Qualls-Brooks (2015)
Mary Johnson Pruitt (2013)
Mary Inez Crutchfield (2011)
Rep. Lois DeBerry (2010)
Jo Ann North (2009)
Georganna T. Sinkfield (2008)
Thelma Harper (2007)

Leadership

Barbara Landers Bowles (2015)
Betty C. Nixon (2013)
Sharon Dixon Gentry (2012)
Donna Nicely (2011)
Jerry B. Williams (2009)
Xerona Clayton (2008)
Georgette Peek Dixon (2007)

Legal

Judge Angela M. Cox (2016)
Mercedes C. Maynor-Falcoun (2015)
Stacey A. Garrett (2012)
Margaret Behm (2011)
Hon. Angelita Blackshear Dalton (2010)
Hon. Chancellor Carol L. McCoy (2009)

Religion

Renita J. Weems (2015)
Becca Stevens (2013)
Vashti Murphy McKenzie (2008)

Science/Medicine

Kelli A. Turner Molette (2010)
Yvonne Y. Clark (2009)
Valerie Montgomery Rice (2008)
Gwinnett Ladson (2007)

Lifetime Achievement

Taraji P. Henson (2015)
Sister Sandra Smithson (2013)
Marcy Dingle Johnson (2011)
Glenda Hatchett (2009)
Victoria Rowell (2008)
Johnnetta B. Cole (2007)

Media

Sharon Kay (2015)
Traci Otey Blunt (2013)
Paula Lovell (2012)
Ann Holt (2010)

Woman of Strength, Courage & Commitment

Elizabeth Wortham (2016)
Ola G. Hudson (2013)
Margaret C. Whitfield (2011)
Sharon Hurt (2010)
Annie Kinzer (2009)

We Celebrate

Tennessee State University and recipients of the 10th annual Women of Legend & Merit Awards

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Vanderbilt University & First Lady, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Ms. Cheryl White Mason

Vanderbilt Law School & HCA Vice President, Litigation

Ms. Teresa Phillips

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