

Tennessee State University

Digital Scholarship @ Tennessee State University

Women of Legend and Merit Awards Programs

Tennessee State University Women's Center

2018

Women of Legend and Merit Awards April 10 2018

Tennessee State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/w-of-l-programs>

T E N N E S S E E S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y



Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018 | 7:00 PM
KEAN HALL AUDITORIUM

Dr. Glenda Glover
PRESIDENT, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

EMPOWERING OUR LEADERS

HCA Healthcare and TriStar Health honor all women who are committed to reach their goals and full potential. We salute their passion, dedication, and leadership.



HCA Healthcare and TriStar Health are proud to support the *Women's Center at Tennessee State University* and its efforts to empower women for the betterment of society.



One Company, Many Careers.

Be part of a team that puts the care and improvement of human life above all else.

HCAhealthcare.com | CareersatHCA.com





April 10, 2018

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 2018 Women of Legend and Merit Award program. As we mark the eleventh year of celebrating a class of outstanding and accomplished honorees, we commend them for joining a flourishing list of those whose contributions have made a mark of improvement to our university, our city and our nation.

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. They represent inspiration to other young women who are witnessing the dynamic achievements and unyielding commitments that are common among these Women of Legend and Merit.



I take this opportunity to thank our speaker for the evening, a compassionate leader who epitomizes the meaning of a Woman of Legend and Merit, Mrs. Beverly Smith, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. I also thank our sponsors whose generous support makes this evening possible. Special thanks go to our 2018 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, most of all, 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.

Enjoy the program!

Sincerely,

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

Glenda Glover
President



April 10, 2018

On behalf of the Tennessee State University Women's Center, the Women's Center Advisory Board, and the Women of Legend & Merit Awards Committee, it is my privilege to welcome you to this evening's event.

The Tennessee State University Women's Center celebrates women from all walks of life who are on the journey to discovering who they are as powerful women. Under the leadership of President Glenda Glover, this event's 11th ceremony continues to teach our students, faculty and staff about varying possibilities that lie ahead.

Tonight's event celebrates women whose daily work exemplifies the word "merit." Their commitment to forging new paths to excellence has earned them our appreciation and recognition. As an institute of higher learning, we recognize those whom we will later study in history books. All of this is made possible by your presence and support, and we appreciate your commitment to this event and to the TSU Women's Center.



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

Sincerely,

Seanne G. Wilson
Chair, 2018 Women of Legend and Merit Committee



Mistress of Ceremony

Miss Kayla Smith

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Kayla Smith serves as the 88th Miss Tennessee State University. Smith, a senior health science major with a concentration in therapeutic studies and a minor in psychology, attended Germantown High School in Memphis where she became the first female African-American senior class president. Her leadership ability and academic success granted her a full scholarship to Tennessee State University.

According to Smith, TSU stole her heart with its southern charm and hospitality. She credits the university's rich history and modern culture along with its family atmosphere as major reasons why she chose to be a part of the Big Blue family.

Since coming to TSU and participating in the university's Academic Boot Camp, Smith has been determined to fulfill the university's motto of "THINK. WORK. SERVE," by taking on roles that promote academic excellence and hard work. She is a former Miss Women of Infinite Potential and the outgoing Miss Junior.

She is also a member of the Honors College, Golden Key International Honor Society, Pep Club, Pre-Alumni Council, HIP'Notyze Dance Troupe, and Princess Generation of Educated Men. In between classes, she welcomes college-bound students during campus tours to encourage the next generation to follow her lead.

"I want to create connections with students instead of being seen as just another pretty face," she said. Smith is inspired by the many Miss TSUs who became before her most notably Samantha Thomas who held the position during her freshman year.

Dr. Tracey Ford, TSU's vice president for Student Affairs, said Smith is "definitely a perfect campus queen" because of the special qualities she has.

"Kayla Smith is an amazing young lady who has demonstrated leadership, scholarship and also a strong member of our community," Ford said. "She relishes her role in being a role model to our students. Our institution is definitely better for having Kayla as our Miss TSU. Not only is she a beautiful person on the outside, she is an amazing spirit on the inside."

With dreams of becoming an occupational therapist post-graduation, Kayla lives by the saying: "When God said let there be light, he gave us all the permission to shine."





Keynote Speaker

Ms. Beverly E. Smith

“Lifetime Achievement”

A seasoned Delta leader, Smith has an extensive history of serving the Sorority on local, regional and national levels. She has served on and chaired numerous committees nationally along with being certified as a Delta Internal Development and Membership Intake trainer. Smith also served as a committee chair on several Southern Region leadership teams, served on the 2000-2004 National Executive Board as chair of the Long Range Planning Task Force, and was the coordinator for the 2002 National Convention, one of the largest, most profitable conventions in Delta’s history. Most recently, she served as the National First Vice President and chair of the National Scholarship and Standards Committee (2013-2017), as well as National Secretary during the 2008-2013 administration. She is also the only elected officer to have had the opportunity to work as the Sorority’s executive director (1988-90) managing the headquarters operation.

Her vision for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is of a sisterhood that actualizes the mantra “joy in our sisterhood... power in our voice... service in our heart.” Smith has committed herself to leadership that is resourceful, relevant and relational and believes in the charge that says: “All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine.”

Smith was initiated into the Sorority through the Epsilon Omicron Chapter at Bowling Green State University in October 1967 and has been a dedicated member of the beloved sisterhood for 50 years. She is currently a member of the Marietta-Roswell (GA) Alumnae chapter where she has been active for 30 years.

In her professional life, Smith is the assistant commissioner and Georgia State director for Adult Education and GED Testing through the Technical College System of Georgia. Georgia’s Office of Adult Education administers the U.S. Department of Education state-wide Adult Education grants, provides adult education training programs for over 50,000 Georgia citizens, and supports local literacy action groups throughout the state. In addition, her office is responsible for the administration of all GED testing in Georgia. Serving Adult Education in a national capacity, Smith is the immediate past chair of the National Adult Education Professional.





Musical Entertainment

Mr. Rod McGaha

A native born Chicagoan, Rod McGaha first showed up on Chicago's jazz scene as a young prodigy, during an era when young lions were making more than just a little roar. He constantly comments on how receiving the acceptance and guidance of legendary tenor saxophonist Von Freeman was very important to him. "When I teach in clinics, I remember how eager I was to get better and how important it was for me to be called one of Von's "horses." When I teach kids today, I recognize that look in their eyes. I'm just as happy for them, as I was for me. I understand their excitement and their fear."

Rod is quick to admit that he was blessed to have garnered the attention of legends like Von Freeman and Clark Terry at a young age, but it is probably most telling that although he received an invite from none other than Wynton Marsalis himself, to come to New York to audition for a spot as one of the newest young lions in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, he felt that life was calling him in a different direction, to be a different kind of lion.

By the time he was 22, Rod was busy trying to find "a way" to musically express his spiritual beliefs, while utilizing his knowledge and skills in African American modern improvisation (or as it is better known as, Jazz). And, apparently that "way" is an endlessly long way. Rod has played concerts in Egypt, Japan, Germany, South Africa, Poland and Mexico. He has played in bands for Kenny Rogers, Bebe and CeCe Winans and was even the music director for the now alternative rock sensation Shelby Lynne. One could just list the stages on which he's played (Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Chicago's legendary Jazz Showcase, to name just a few) and come to the conclusion that his has been a complete musical life. But Rod says the music is the only thing that really matters. "If I can make someone feel something through my music, then I know I'm doing it right. I want people to feel the way I felt listening to Clark Terry. I remember, I was listening to a recording of Clark Terry and it gave me great joy. He made me happy just with his music alone. That's the power of music!"



And, it is Rod's power in music that led the New York Times to proclaim that his album, Preacherman, was one of the top ten albums deserving greater recognition. Not one to ever rest on past achievements, Rod McGaha has continued to write and perform music that is both contemporary, and yet classic in some nature. Traveling the world and playing with such a diverse group of musical talents spurred him to create the well received United For Peace Orchestra, a 22-member juggernaut of a band, amalgamating over seven different nationalities. "Being on stage with that band was like being on stage with an encyclopedia Britannica. There was knowledge and culture coming in from all different directions and the audience was just as inspired by it as we were." But complexity for complexity sake is not Rod's approach. Often, you'll see him onstage using nothing but a plunger and his trumpet, while playing a raw a capella blues. His musical philosophy is one reminiscent of the familiar Nikki Giovanni line, "... people try to speak English instead of trying to speak through it." Rod's primary goal is to speak through music in a way that brings joy to his audiences. And, as for all the rest? "All the rest is gravy, doc!" All the rest is gravy.



Women of Legend and Merit Awards

EVENT HISTORY

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 as well as 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.

A small group of passionate, but powerful and committed women were assembled on campus to make this dream a reality, resulting in the inaugural Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner being held March 2007. 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 as an effort to give female students the resources they need to succeed in and outside of the classroom.





Women of Legend and Merit Awards

2018 Honorees

Business

Vivian Wilhoite

Property Assessor

Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County

Education

Tameka Winston

Interim Chair, Department of Communications

Tennessee State University

Government

Many Bears Grinder

Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs

Leadership

Tina Tuggle

Director of Community Relations

Tennessee Titans

Woman of Strength, Courage & Commitment

Gwendolyn Vincent

Retired Educator

Former TSU Nashville Chapter Alumni President



Order of Program

Mistress of Ceremony

Kayla Smith

Miss Tennessee State University
Marketing Major, Memphis, TN

| | |
|--|---|
| Processional of Honorees | Ms. Kelli Sharpe Assistant Vice President of Public Relations and Communications |
| Prayer. | Mrs. Samantha Morgan-Curtis Women of Legend & Merit Committee |
| Greetings | Dr. Glenda Glover <i>President, Tennessee State University</i> |
| Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony | Miss Kirsten Beverly Psychology Major, Senior |
| Occasion/Overview | Miss Hailee B. Roye Business Administration Major, Sophomore |
| Special Salute to Alumni | Mrs. Sandra D. Hair Hunt Women Center Advisory Board |
| <i>“Woman of Strength, Courage, and Wisdom” - Mrs. Gwendolyn Vincent</i> | |
| Special Salute to Student. | Mrs. Mary Boyd Women Center Advisory Board |
| <i>“Rising Star” - Miss Natalie Cooper</i> | |
| Dinner & Entertainment | |
| Guest Band | Rod McGaha and Band |



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

Business - Mrs. Vivian Wilhoite

Salute to Honoree Councilwoman Brenda Haywood
Women's Center Advisory Board

Education - Dr. Tameka Winston

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

Government - Mrs. Many Bears Grinder

Women's Center Video Presentation

Salute to Honoree Mrs. Marie Sueing
Women's Center Advisory Board

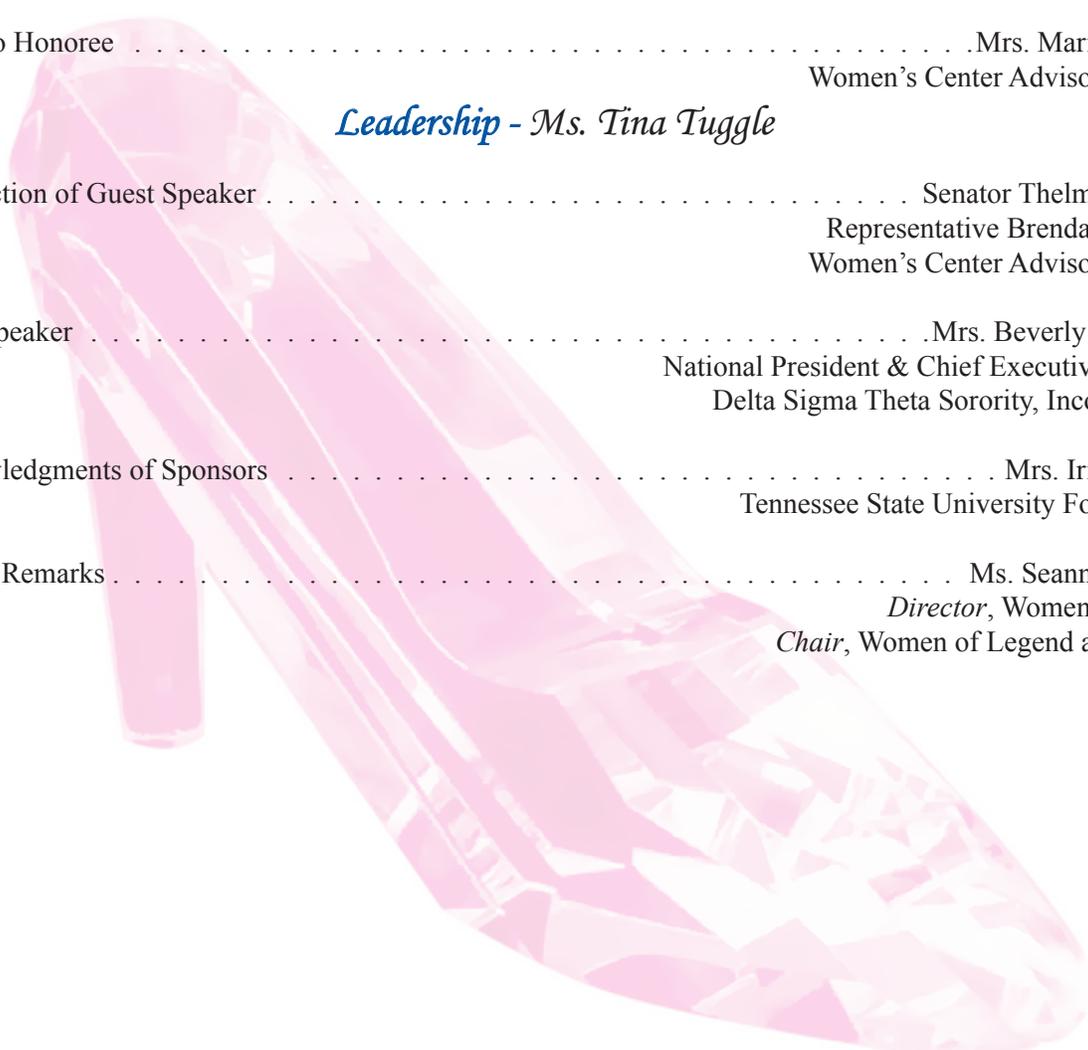
Leadership - Ms. Tina Tuggle

Introduction of Guest Speaker Senator Thelma Harper
Representative Brenda Gilmore
Women's Center Advisory Board

Guest Speaker Mrs. Beverly E. Smith
National President & Chief Executive Officer
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Acknowledgments of Sponsors Mrs. Iris Ramey
Tennessee State University Foundation

Closing Remarks Ms. Seanne Wilson
*Director, Women's Center
Chair, Women of Legend and Merit*





Honoree

Mrs. Gwendolyn Vincent

“Women of Strength, Courage & Commitment”

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Gwendolyn Vincent worked as an educator, community leader and political activist for over 40 years. She worked tirelessly as an elementary school teacher with Metro Nashville Public Schools for thirty-five years and continues to be a champion for education.

Vincent secured her first teaching job in Memphis at the Florida Elementary School. She then taught in Nashville at Ford Green Elementary School, Rosebank Elementary School, Warner Elementary School and Charlotte Park Elementary School, spending a major part of her years as a reading specialist at Warner Elementary School.

A community leader, Vincent has served as President of Alpha Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Music City Chapter of Links, Metro Nashville Education Association, and Faith Unlimited Civic Club. For eight years she served as president of the Nashville Chapter of the TSU Alumni Association, which named its annual Christmas brunch in her honor.

A member of Leadership Nashville and First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Vincent has served on the boards of the Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts and Reading Is Fundamental. As a political activist, she ran for positions on the city council and the school board, experiences she credits with empowering her to be an effective lobbyist. As an advocate for the AARP, she worked to ensure funding for programs for older adults.

Vincent chose a career as an educator because it gave her the opportunity to work with children and positively influence the lives of others. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education in 1956 and went on to earn a Master of Arts Degree in Education in 1960. She loves reading and traveling internationally. A sports enthusiast, she stays active as a member of the Metro Swinging Seniors dance group. Vincent continues to support Tennessee State University in various ways such as attending TSU football games and serving on university committees.

She is married to Walter Vincent, a TSU alumnus who worked as head of the Department of Architectural Engineering at the university for almost 30 years. Gwendolyn and Walter have one daughter, Renne Vincent-Fields, a 1977 TSU alumna who lives in Pennsylvania. They have three grandchildren, Lauren, Assistant District Attorney in Los Angeles, California; Lindsey, who works as a computer specialist in Atlanta; and Walter “Trey,” a sophomore at Belmont University.





Honoree

Miss Natalie Cooper

"Rising Star"

I always knew upon graduating from high school that I would attend college. From an early age my parents and grandparents instilled in me the importance of higher education. However, it wasn't until the Summer of 2015, while on a family vacation to Nashville, that I discovered Tennessee State University. The idea of attending a Historically Black College or University had never really crossed my mind. Up until then I saw myself attending a school in my home state of Texas. But there was something about TSU that caught my attention.

My first semester at Tennessee State University has been amazing. I have discovered so much about myself and the world around me. I instantly felt at home once I got to campus. The family oriented environment here at TSU has helped me to become more comfortable with who I am as a young African American woman. For the first time, I am able to express myself without the fear of how others may view me.

I have been blessed to be a part of the Honors College here on campus. The support and guidance I have received from this program have truly helped me adjust to college life and the academic rigor. I am currently majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Supply Chain Management. My first semester I earned a 3.8 GPA. I also made the Dean's List. My hard work and dedication have paid off and I plan to continue this level of commitment throughout my college career.

There are so many different organizations here on campus to become a part of. During my first semester, I had the opportunity to join the New Direction Gospel Choir and volunteered in the community with the Honors College. I plan to continue my commitment to service by partnering with other campus-based groups that serve women and children.

In the next five years, I see myself having graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Tennessee State University and attending graduate school. I would like to obtain my MBA and begin working in the field of Supply Chain Management. I enjoy the process of seeing things develop from beginning to end. I would also like to obtain my Real Estate license and make that a career as well. My ultimate goal is become the CEO of my own company. Owning my own business will give me the opportunity to help others through employment and community service.

I am dedicated to pursuing my dreams and becoming the best woman I can be. I have been lucky to have several talented and successful women in my life who have helped me along the way. I hope to be an example and an inspiration to the young ladies who come behind me.

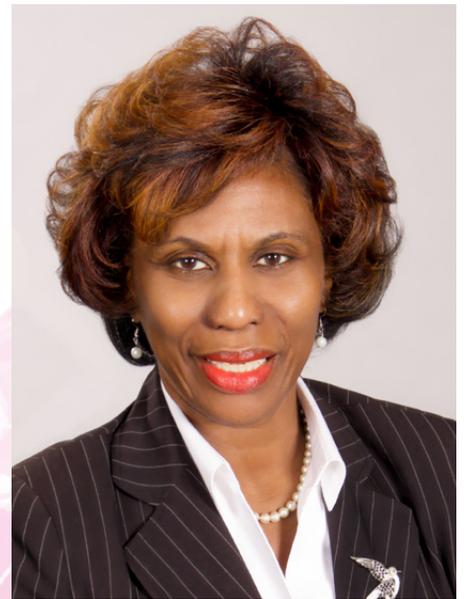




Honoree

Mrs. Vivian Michael Wilhoite “Business”

Vivian Michael Wilhoite, the daughter of the late Leo and Thresia “Rete” Michael, is a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, who came to Nashville to attend Tennessee State University after being influenced by family member, Homer Wheaton. The youngest of four children, Vivian was encouraged by the late Orrin Rucker to enter the field of Real Estate Appraising. Upon graduation from TSU, Vivian started her professional career as a Real Estate Appraiser at the Tennessee Public Service Commission (“Commission”) now known as the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA). While at the Commission, Vivian was responsible for the appraisal of public utility properties for *ad valorem* tax purposes. She was promoted to the position of assistant director and later to chief of the consumer services division where she oversaw Tennessee’s regulatory initiatives, policy development, and complaints for regulated utility companies. She concluded her state career as the TRA’s statewide representative for Consumer Education and Outreach, a role in which she traveled the state empowering consumers to make informed decisions about their gas, water, electric and telephone services.



Vivian believes her purpose in life is to serve others. She began walking in that purpose as an involved student at TSU. In 2003, she ran and was elected to serve as Representative of District 29 on the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Council (Metro Council). In 2007, she was re-elected by 72 percent of the votes, which was the largest percentage of anyone running for local public office in that election year. While serving on the Metro Council, Vivian was selected as Vice-President of Information, Technology and Communications Committee of the National League of Cities, which played a major role in the implementation of the Broadband Plan and Digital Transition for the city of Nashville.

After serving eight years on the Metro Council, Vivian remained active in the community and political arena. Seeing an opportunity to effect change and empower the masses, she again entered the political arena and successfully ran for the Office of the Assessor of Property for Davidson County. On August 31, 2016, she took the oath for a four-year term, becoming the first African American to hold that office in the history of Davidson County. As the Assessor, Vivian and her staff of 85 are responsible for the valuation of more than 247,700 taxable residential and commercial properties, in addition to 26,805 personal property accounts. The resulting work of the Office of Assessor constitutes approximately 48 percent of the budget of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

In her first year as the Assessor, Vivian successfully completed the 2017 Reappraisal which resulted in \$29.7 billion in *total assessed value* for all classifications of properties in Davidson County (15.1 billion and 14.1 billion, respectively for commercial and residential properties). This was the largest valuation increase in the history of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.



Honoree

Dr. Tameka Winston

"Education"

Dr. Tameka Winston is the chair and an award-winning professor in the Department of Communications at Tennessee State University. Winston has been working at the collegiate level for 16 years in various roles and is a highly sought-after speaker. She serves as the executive producer and host for two radio programs on Sirius Satellite, Black Docs and Tennessee State Talk, and has been featured in various print and broadcast media outlets including Fox 17/ WZTV, WKRN, The Tennessee Tribune, Nashville Business Journal, the Network Journal and The Tennessean. She also facilitates numerous workshops on various topics.

Winston was recently awarded the prestigious 2017 Athena Young Professional Leadership Award and Nashville Business Journal's "2017 Woman of Influence Award." Nashville Lifestyle Magazine also named Winston one of Nashville's 25 Most Beautiful People. She was awarded the Professor of Year Award by the College of Liberal Arts for 2015-2016 and 2012-2013. She also received the 2015 Woman of Achievement Award at the 35th Annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee conference. Her voice can be heard each week anywhere in the United States because of her national radio show that she refers to as a great platform to inspire others to reach their fullest potential. She is also the founder of two programs that specialize in mentoring young adults. Black Docs specializes in mentoring women of color that are interested in pursuing their doctoral degree. Many of Winston's mentees are working on their graduate degrees and working in the media industry throughout the United States.



During her time at Tennessee State University, Winston has also developed a total of three mentorship programs. She co-authored and published a textbook, *Understanding the Speechmaking Process*, and is also the author for the 3rd Edition of *Mass Media Revolution*. Her research interests include coverage of education related issues in the media, media convergence, new media technologies, multimedia curriculum and the status of education in the black belt states.

After graduating from college with her B.A. degree, she moved to Nashville with \$600 and faith. Winston was determined to accomplish her goals even though she didn't have a job, car or family in the area before relocating to Nashville. During her first six months in the city, she slept on the floor because she didn't have money to buy furniture. She is transparent about her humble upbringing and feels that it is important to share her story to inspire those that may come from a similar background.

She is also very active with other community related organizations such as The Pencil Project through Metro Nashville Public Schools. Winston travels to 1-2 high/middle schools per month to facilitate writing and public speaking workshops. She also raised funds to support several community service programs such as Black Docs Mentoring.

Winston earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Alcorn State University. She secured her Master of Arts Degree from Austin Peay State University and her Doctor of Education and Specialist in Education Degrees at Tennessee State University. She enjoys writing and traveling with her husband.



Honoree

Mrs. Many-Bears Grinder "Government"

In January 2011, Governor Bill Haslam appointed Many-Bears Grinder as the Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. She is the first woman to serve the State of Tennessee in this capacity.

In order to accept the appointment, Grinder retired from the Tennessee Army National Guard as a Colonel with more than 35 years of service. The Operation Enduring Freedom combat veteran served in Afghanistan as the Head of Secretariat for the International Police Coordination Board.

Grinder holds a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Maryville College in 2016 and was inducted into the Fort Benning Hall of Fame in 2004. Her military awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

As Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services, Grinder is responsible for the operation of TDVS Field offices, Appeals Division and four (4) State Veteran Cemeteries. She is also an ex-officio voting member of the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board (TSVHB). TSVHB oversees the operations of the four (4) existing Homes.

Under her leadership, the department focus increased to include "Everything Veteran" to improve customer service to all Tennessee veterans. The department serves as support for Justice Involved Veterans in Veteran Treatment Courts. TDVS is making strides regarding higher education access for student veterans with the addition of Veteran Education Coordinators, increased recruiting of veterans for workforce development programs and veteran business resources.

Commissioner Grinder serves as the Chair of the Governor's Veterans Education Task Force, charged with finding ways to improve recruiting, retaining and supporting student veterans through to graduation. She also serves on the Governor's Subcabinet for Workforce Development, on the Tennessee State Museum Foundation Board, on the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Nashville General Advisory Committee, on the Great War Commission, on the Fort Campbell Retiree Council, and on the Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Grinder moved to Tennessee in 1989 where she met and married her husband, Ernie Grinder, a Vietnam Veteran.





Honoree

Ms. Tina Tuggle

"Leadership"

Tina Tuggle enters her 22nd season with the Titans and fifth as Director of Community Relations. In her role with the team, Tuggle oversees the development and implementation of all Titans community relations activations. In addition to existing programming, Tuggle has enhanced the community relations department by prioritizing the presence of youth football locally along with programs that enhance those in underserved communities. In addition, reconnecting and cultivating relationships with former Oilers/Titans players has been a top priority as well.

Formerly the Director of Player Development from 2007-14, Tuggle assisted Titans players with continuing education, financial education, career internships and player assistance programs.

From 1998-2007, Tuggle served as the Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President/General Manager and Director of Football Operations, where she worked closely with the team's player development initiatives. Additionally, she served as the players' insurance representative and worked in both the player personnel and scouting departments. Behind Tuggle's contributions, the Titans' player development department won the Winston-Shell Award in 2006 for its innovation and commitment to player development. The department was also recognized as the NFL's most improved player development program from 1998-99 after her arrival.

In 2005, Tuggle was selected to represent the club at the NFL's Stanford Executive Training Program at the Stanford Business School, where she took part in upper level management training. She was selected to participate in the Football Operations Personnel Symposium spring of 2007. Additionally, for the 2007-08 season, Tuggle won the NFL's Best Player's Assistance Program of the Year.

In 2009, Tuggle was appointed to the NFL Player Development Steering Committee. The purpose of the committee is to assist NFL Player and Employee Development by providing advice and opinions in matters related to off-field support of players and their families.

In 2012, Tuggle completed a year-long executive education program to receive her certification as an Athlete-Development Professional. The NFL-Wharton Athlete Development Professional Certification, developed by Player Engagement and Wharton's Aresty Institute of Executive Education, provided extensive training and education in topic areas essential to working in the field of athlete development and the sports industry in general.

Last year, Tuggle was recognized in the *Nashville Lifestyles* magazine August edition: Women in Business feature which highlighted nine women for their contribution to the local business community. Tuggle and her son Josiah (20), reside in Nashville.





Sponsors

Silver Sponsor

ACA TriStar Health

Bronze Sponsor

Regions Bank

Table Sponsor

Hudson & Associates LLC

Reception Sponsor

Patricia Bailey/R&R Drive-In Market



Acknowledgements

The Women of Legend and Merit Awards Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in making the awards reception and dinner a fabulous success!

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Allen Printing | Events Plus |
| Aramark | Event Systems |
| Awards Center | Pat Bailey / R & R Drive-In Market |
| Creations by Debbie | Prographics |
| Designs by J. Coleman | |

Musical Entertainment

Rod McGaha
Trumpet

Don Aliquo
Saxophone

Jerry Navarro
Bass

Jody Nardone
Piano

Marcus Finnie
Drums

Tennessee State University

Office of the President, TSU
Office of Public Relations & Communications
Office of Publications
Office of Creative Services
Division of Student Affairs
Office of Institutional Advancement
Office of Events Management
Office of Finance and Accounting
TSU Nashville Alumni Chapter

Office of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving
Office of Facilities Management
Office of Business and Finance
Floyd Payne Campus Center
Office of Procurement
The WRITE Program
TSU Foundation
TSU Xerox



Women of Legend and Merit

2018 Committee



Ms. Jennifer Bell



Mrs. Cynthia Brooks



Ms. Peggy Earnest



**Dr. Samantha
Morgan-Curtis**



**Mrs. Betsy
Jackson-Mosley**



Mrs. Iris Ramey



Ms. Kelli Sharpe



Mr. Frank Stevenson



Ms. Seanne Wilson



Dr. Jewell Winn



Mr. Grant Winrow



Women's Center

Advisory Board Members



Mrs. Mary Boyd



Mrs. Mary Carver-Patrick



**Representative
Brenda Gilmore**



Senator Thelma Harper



**Councilwoman
Brenda Haywood**



Mrs. Sandra Hunt



Mrs. Marie Sueing

In Our Thoughts

Senator Thelma Harper in the loss of her husband, Mr. Paul Wilson Harper.
Dr. Jewell Winn in the loss of her father, Mr. John L. Green, Sr.



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Tracey D. Ford, Vice President, Student Affairs



Dr. Mari Ross-Alexander
Asst. Vice President
for Student Affairs



Mr. Frank Stevenson
Dean of Students



Dr. William Hytche
Assistant Dean of Students



Ms. Peggy Earnest
Chief of Staff

On behalf of the Tennessee State University Division of Student Affairs, we thank each of you for joining us on this 11th annual Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner and your financial support. This event provides an opportunity for us to celebrate 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.

The Women of Legend and Merit Awards Dinner is the signature event of the TSU Women's Center. It provides funding for department operations as well scholarship opportunities for women at TSU. We are proud of the work of Seanne Wilson, Director, as well as the Women's Center advisory board and Women of Legend and Merit committee.



Student Participants

Tennessee State University is proud to recognize its 2017 - 2018 outstanding students who contributed in making tonight's program successful.

Miss Kayla Smith

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

Miss Kirsten Beverly

Clinton, Maryland
Major: Psychology, Senior
Psi Chi International Honor Society
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

WOLM Escorts

Mr. Christopher Bufford

TSU Freshman

Mr. Eddie Cargor

TSU Freshman

Mr. Carl Fisher

TSU Freshman

Mr. Blake Hamilton

TSU Senior

Mr. Dwight Pullen

TSU Senior; Mr. Ivy

Mr. Keith Sawyer

TSU Junior; Mr. Collegiate 100

Mr. Christopher Scott

TSU Freshman

Mr. Rodney Washington

TSU Freshman

WOLM Hostesses

Miss Kayla Daniels

TSU Sophomore

Miss Dadra Davis

TSU Sophomore

Miss Taylor Garner

TSU Sophomore

Miss Jasha Keller

TSU Sophomore

Miss Makayla McCree

TSU Sophomore

Miss Hailee B. Roye

TSU Sophomore

Miss Lyndia Walker

TSU Sophomore

Miss Jaylen Webb

TSU Sophomore



Former Honorees

Athletics

Teresa Phillips (2017)
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

Yvette Boyd (2017)
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

Cheryl White Mason (2017)
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)





Former Honorees

Religion

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

Science/Medicine

Dr. Stephanie Walker (2017)
Kelli A. Turner Molette (2010)
Yvonne Y. Clark (2009)
Valerie Montgomery Rice (2008)
Gwinnett Ladson (2007)

Lifetime Achievement

Hattie Bryant (2017)
Taraji P. Henson (2015)
Sister Sandra Smithson (2013)
Marcy Dingle Johnson (2011)
Glenda Hatchett (2009)
Victoria Rowell (2008)
Johnnetta B. Cole (2007)

Media

Vicki Yates (2017)
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)

Former Women of Legend and Merit Chairs

Michelle Viera
Jewell Winn
Dawn Rutledge
Cassandra Griggs
Peggy Earnest





SAVE THE DATE!

12th Annual Women of Legend and Merit
Tuesday, March 19th, 2019



Hudson and Associates, LLC

Congratulations Vivian M. Whithore,

On being honored the Tennessee State University

2018 Women of Legend and Merit Award.

*Your servanthood, passion, boldness and desire to empower,
exemplifies the qualities of a great business and merit award leader.*



Shelia A. Hudson, Principal & CEO
TSU Alumna



SMART Project Solutions
Enhanced. Effective. Efficient

Parking Management ♦ Planning ♦ Program Management ♦ Operations Support

St. Louis ♦ Atlanta ♦ Nashville ♦ Kansas City

www.HudsonandAssociates.net



We come together for reaching goals.

 TENNESSEE

Tennessee is where you invest in the future, and it's where we love to watch you grow. We share your commitment to a brighter tomorrow and the community we're all a part of. You make Tennessee better every day, and you inspire us to make banking easier, so we all have more time to enjoy life as we take our next step together in this place we call home.

1.800.regions | regions.com





TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



www.tnstate.edu/womenscenter