

Tennessee State University

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Women of Legend and Merit Awards Programs

Tennessee State University Women's Center

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2023

### Women of Legend and Merit Awards April 11 2023

Tennessee State University

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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Women  
of  
Legend & Merit

AWARDS DINNER

Kean Hall Auditorium

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 | 7 PM

Dr. Glenda Glover  
President, Tennessee State University



PRESIDENT:

## Glenda Glover

Dear Honorees and Guests:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Tennessee State University, I would like to welcome you to the 14th annual celebration of women, the Women of Legend and Merit Awards. This year's theme is: **"Extraordinary Women Living Legendary Lives"** and this year's list of honorees, who represent the categories of Athletics, Business, Community Service, Education, Leadership, Media, and Medicine, truly exemplifies this theme.

I extend a warm welcome to our guest speaker and twice NAACP Image Award recipient, the talented actress, Ms. Nia Long. I am sure that her message will inspire each of us to pursue our dreams and live fulfilled, purpose-driven lives.

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 also congratulate this year's "Rising Star" scholarship recipient, sophomore Tamar Williams, who continues to work diligently towards her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications.

Thanks to our sponsors whose generous support makes this evening possible. Special thanks go to our 2023 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. 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





# Women OF LEGEND AND MERIT



Good Evening and Warmest Greetings from the Tennessee State University Women's Center!

Good Evening and Warmest Greetings from the Tennessee State University Women's Center!

On behalf of the Tennessee State University Women's Center, Women's Center Ambassadors, and the Women of Legend and Merit Committee, we welcome you to the 14th Women of Legend and Merit Awards.

We have gathered together tonight for this momentous occasion to reflect upon this year's theme: **"Extraordinary Women Living Legendary Lives"**  
It is my prayer that tonight's awards dinner will empower men and women alike to discover and pursue their destiny without fear. Nothing in life comes easy, but our 2023 Honorees have persevered through good and bad times to arrive at this pivotal time in their lives.

We celebrate our 2023 Honorees in the categories of Athletics, Business, Community Service, Education, Leadership, Media, and Medicine.

This year's "Rising Star", Tamar Williams, continues to work towards her degree in spite of a harrowing car accident during the month of March.

Our guest speaker, Ms. Nia Long, will inspire and encourage each of us to pursue our dreams in order to live fulfilled, purpose driven lives.

Thank you to everyone who has made this an evening of excellence, with gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Glenda Glover, President, who continues to inspire the Women's Center Director and Ambassador to "Think, Work, and Serve others as a servant leader; to Vice-President, Frank Stevenson and the Student Affairs Division who supported the Women's Center every step of the way; to the WOLM sponsors, Tennessee State University administration, faculty, staff, alumni, and most especially our Nashville community who has supported this

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in pink ink that reads "Seanne Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Seanne Wilson  
Chair, 2023 Women of Legend and Merit Committee  
Director, TSU Women's Center





# 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.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# MS. NIA LONG

## ACTRESS



Nia Long is a talented actress and producer who has made a name for herself in the entertainment industry. She recently produced and starred in the Netflix smash hit thriller *FATAL AFFAIR*, which debuted at number one on the platform. In addition, she starred opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Anthony Mackie in the Apple film, *THE BANKER*, and received an NAACP Image Award nomination for “Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture.” Her other recent film credits include Janicza Bravo’s Sundance-nominated *LEMON* and Netflix’s *ROXANNE ROXANNE* with Chanté Adams and Mahershala Ali.

Nia has also made a mark in television, with recent credits that include Kenya Barris’ *#BLACKAF* and Justin Simien’s *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE*. However, she is perhaps best known for her iconic work in *BOYZ N THE HOOD*, *FRIDAY*, *LOVE JONES*, *THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR*, *THIRD WATCH*, and *THE BEST MAN* franchise. Her performances in the latter two earned her three NAACP Image Award wins.

Recently, Nia headlined the Sony feature film *SEARCHING 2*, a follow-up to the hugely successful and critically acclaimed box office hit *SEARCHING*. She also starred in the Netflix feature *PLUS/MINUS* and the Peacock limited series *THE BEST MAN: THE FINAL CHAPTERS*, where she reprised her two-time film role alongside the original cast. Additionally, Nia appeared in the Netflix comedy *YOU PEOPLE*, opposite Jonah Hill and Eddie Murphy, with Kenya Barris directing.

With her impressive range of roles and strong presence on both the big and small screens, Nia Long has proven to be a versatile and dynamic performer. Her talent and dedication to her craft have earned her numerous accolades and a loyal fanbase.





# Women

OF  
**LEGEND AND MERIT**  
AWARDS

## 2023 HONOREES

JENNIFER BELL  
ATHLETICS

LAQUITA STRIBLING  
BUSINESS

PATRICIA MALONE SMITH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

LAURA FITZGERALD COOPER  
EDUCATION

JANET RACHEL  
LEADERSHIP

NIA LONG  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

LADONNA BOYD  
MEDIA

CHERAE FARMER-DIXON  
MEDICINE





# Women OF LEGEND AND MERIT AWARDS

## ORDER OF PROGRAM

Processional of Honorees.....Ms. Seanne Wilson

*Chair, Women of Legend and Merit Awards*

Prayer & Meditation .....Miss Kennedy Mickles

*2023 Women's Center Ambassador*

Greetings.....President Glenda Glover

*Tennessee State University*

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies .....Miss Amore Dixie

*Miss Freshman*

*Women's Center Ambassador*

Mistress of Ceremonies.....Miss Aria McElroy

*President*

*Women's Center Ambassador*

Occasion/Overview.....Miss Skylar Moore

*Vide-President, Freshman Class*

Special Award.....Miss Stacey Bryant-Turner

*Women's Center Ambassador*

**"Rising Star" - Miss Tamar Williams**

**DINNER IS SERVED**

Tennessee State University ..... Aramark Dining



ENTERTAINMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical Selections .....Julius “The Genius” Fisher

Acknowledgement of Sponsors ..... Ms. LoLita D. Toney/Ms. Iris Ramey  
*Institutional Advancement*

Salute to Honoree.....Dr. Carolyn Davis  
*Assistant Vice-President,  
TSU Student AffairsCommunity Service*

ATHLETICS

MRS. JENNIFER BELL

ASSOCIATE AD

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Salute to Honoree..... Mrs. Julia Boyd  
*President, Nashville Cable*

BUSINESS

DR. LAQUITA STRIBLING

VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

RANDSTAD

Salute to Honoree..... Ms. Debbi Howard  
*Director, Alumni Relations  
Women of Legend and Merit Committee*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MRS. PATRICIA MALONE SMITH

URBAN LEAGUE

Salute to Honorees .....Deputy Mayor Brenda Haywood  
*Nashville Mayor’s Office*

EDUCATION

MRS. LAURA FITZGERALD COOPER, JD

RETIRED ATTORNEY; WRITER, PROFESSOR

BELMONT UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF LAW



Salute to Honoree..... Mrs. Latrisha Jemison  
*Vice-President, Regions Bank  
Women of Legend and Merit Committee*

LEADERSHIP

MRS. JANET RACHEL

PRESIDENT

NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN INCORPORATED,  
METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Salute to Honoree ..... Mrs. Sandra Hair Hunt  
*Retired Government Official – Former Warden  
Women of Legend and Merit Committee*

MEDIA

DR. LADONNA BOYD

PRESIDENT/CEO

R.H. BOYD FAMILY COMPANIES

Salute to Honoree ..... Mrs. Marie Sueing  
*Chief Diversity Officer  
Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau*

MEDICINE

DR. CHERAE FARMER-DIXON BOYD

DEAN

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

Remarks & Special Presentation..... The Honorable Brenda Gilmore  
*Retired Senator*

Guest Speaker ..... Ms. Nia Long  
*Actress & NAACP Image Award Nominee  
Chair, Women of Legend and Merit Awards*

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





# HONOREE

MS. JENNIFER BELL

ATHLETICS



Jennifer, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, began her career at Tennessee State University two months after graduating from Fisk University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She earned her master's degree in Sports Administration from Tennessee State University in 2005. As a student at Fisk, Jennifer was a four-year letter winner in women's basketball, a three-time CIAC All-Conference selection, and a member of the Fisk University 1,000-points club. After graduation, Jennifer was hired as an Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at TSU—a position she held for 11 years.

During her coaching stint, Jennifer served as the recruiting coordinator and oversaw the development of the post players. In addition, she became actively involved with learning the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Compliance Manual and how the legislation can be applied. Due to her knowledge of athletic compliance, she was given the opportunity to transition from coaching to administration in 2002, in the role of Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance. Since then, Jennifer has held the Associate AD for Compliance position and currently serves as the Associate AD for Student Services.

Since transitioning into athletic administration, Jennifer has assisted with the writing, implementing, and overseeing of more than \$1 million in grant funding for Tennessee State University Athletics department to support academic services, student-athlete development initiatives, and compliance. She has served on numerous NCAA and Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) committees and guided the Tennessee State University Athletics Department through two successful NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews. Under her leadership, the Tennessee State University Athletics Department has not been involved in any Level I or Level II NCAA violations.

Jennifer has a love for community service and empowering individuals from all backgrounds. She's a member of the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and the Hendersonville Area (TN) Chapter of The Links, Inc. Through her dedication and commitment to service with these organizations and TSU Athletics, Jennifer has continued to develop and sustain relationships with key community partners along with providing services for after-school youth programming within North Nashville in the Metro Nashville Public School (MNPS) system. Recently, Jennifer received the prestigious honor of being the 2023 Thurston Banks Award Recipient for the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC).

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, attending concerts and Broadway plays, and walking in her purpose of impacting the lives of young people. Jennifer is a Mount Zion Baptist Church member, where she serves as an usher and a member of the Connection Center.



# HONOREE

## DR. LAQUITA STRIBLING

### BUSINESS



Dr. Laquita Stribling is Vice President of Sales and Customer Experience with Randstad USA. Laquita is responsible for ten offices throughout Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. Laquita also serves on Randstad's Executive Diversity Council.

Laquita served as President of the 3rd largest Rotary Club in the world, the Rotary Club of Nashville. She was the first African American female to serve in that role. Laquita also served as the District Governor for Rotary International District 6760 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). The district was comprised of 62 Rotary Clubs and 3,500 Rotarians across Middle and West Tennessee. She was the first African-American to hold this position. In acknowledgement for her work and leadership in Rotary, Former Nashville Mayor David Briley declared July 14, 2018, Laquita Stribling Day. In 2021, she was also awarded the Rotary district's Trailblazer Award.

Currently, Laquita serves as an Independent Corporate Director with Citizens Bank, the oldest African American owned bank in the United States. She has also been named Executive Sponsor for OneTen Nashville; which is a national initiative to address the wealth gap and economic disparities among African Americans in the United States. One Ten's mission is to place 1 million African Americans, without 4 year degrees, into family sustaining jobs and careers over the next 10 years. Additionally, Laquita has also served as President and Board Chair of Nashville Cable and Co-Chair of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Report Committee. Laquita also serves on several not for profit boards.

In 2017, Laquita was inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement and was awarded Mt. Zion's Bridge Builder Award and CABLE's Civic Outreach Award. In 2018, Laquita was recognized as a Woman of Influence by the Nashville Business Journal and was awarded the Power Movers Award. Most recently, Laquita was awarded Cable's Power of Inclusion Award, was inducted into Cable's Board Walk of Fame, and was recognized among Nashville's Most Powerful People.

Laquita earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Memphis, and a doctoral degree from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Laquita is married to Finis Stribling III, and they have three sons: Finis IV, Kylan and Tre'.





# HONOREE

## MRS. PATRICIA MALONE SMITH

### COMMUNITY SERVICE



Patricia Malone Smith is the Director of Corporate Relations for the Urban League of Middle TN, where she is responsible for overseeing the workforce corporate interactions with external stakeholders, corporate engagement, volunteers, growth and stewarding corporate partners to participate in the Urban League Advancing Workforce Equity Initiative.

Malone Smith previously oversaw the Workforce Development Department at the Urban League of Middle Tennessee. Where she provided assistance to individuals through the second chance program, and assisted individuals to obtain a livable wage and sustainable employment.

Malone Smith formerly oversaw the Workforce Development Program for Thistle Farms. Malone-Smith has worked in various roles to include working for the State of Ohio for 17 years, in numerous departments to include Human Resources, Small and Minority Business, Community Block Grants, Training and development. Executive Director for two school districts, Assistant Center Director at FiftyForward Bordeaux and she's held various Human Resource positions across industries.

Malone-Smith served in the Air National Guard for six years, and she holds a Master of Science Degree in Administration (with a specified focus in Human Resource Management) from Central Michigan University; a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Development from Wilberforce University; an associate of liberal arts degree from Columbus State Community College; a Certified Business Advisor License from the University of Toledo, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida Muma College of Business and she is a Certified Leadership Coach with the John Maxwell team.

Malone Smith currently serves as the Executive Director for Greater Love Kingdom Building Church, President for the National Hook-up of Black Women Nashville Chapter, the National Secretary for the National Hook-up of Black Women Inc., and Board member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Metro Nashville Chapter.

Nashville Cable 2023 Athena Chair, Café Momentum Board Secretary, NAACP Executive Board, KYB Leadership Academy VP of Fund Development, Advisory Committee member for Project SEARCH and Rebuilding Together Nashville.

Past board and community commitments include, Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Survivor Empowerment Foundation, Workforce Development Advisory Board, Martha O'Bryan Center and Northwest Family YMCA Board.

Malone Smith received the 2019 Dr. Katherine Brown (KYP) Caregivers Award, Nashville Cable 2022 Civic Outreach Award and nominated for the 2019 Power Moves, Community Advocacy Award.

Malone-Smith co-authored Seven Paths, One Destination: Memoirs of Hope, Purpose, And Success.

Malone-Smith is active throughout Middle Tennessee, advocating for women, children, and the elderly. She is extremely passionate about impacting lives and creating a smile wherever she goes! She has a daughter, Marquelle Robinson Johnson, and is married to Jeffrey Smith





# HONOREE

## MRS. LAURA FITZGERALD COOPER

### EDUCATION



Laura Fitzgerald Cooper is a writer, teacher, and mother of three young adult sons. She hails from Virginia and holds degrees from Hollins College (now University) and Yale Law School. After law school, Laura practiced law in Washington, D.C. and New York City before joining the law faculty at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. During her tenure as a professor, which spanned a decade, she taught courses in American constitutional law, including Federal Courts and the Separation of Powers.

When her children were young, Laura took a break from teaching, but continued to write. Her essays, articles, and book reviews have appeared in numerous publications, including the Washington Post. She has also shared her knowledge and expertise as a Visiting Professor of Constitutional Law at Belmont University College of Law.

Laura currently resides in Nashville with her husband, John Cooper, and their three dogs. She is deeply committed to her family and her work, and continues to inspire and educate through her writing and teaching.



# AWARD RECIPIENT

MRS. JANET RACHEL

## LEADERSHIP



Janet Rachel, President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Metropolitan Nashville Chapter is a passionate community leader and advocate for women, girls and the underserved. Janet retired from Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2020 after an esteemed 40 year executive and senior Human Resources and Diversity career in Financial Services, Technology, Higher Education, State and local Government, and Healthcare. Janet is President of Rachel Consulting Service providing career transition coaching and DEI support services to individuals and organizations.

At Vanderbilt Janet served as Diversity Consultant in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and held roles in Human Resources as HR Diversity Consultant and Talent Operations Program for the Medical Center and University where she launched the Dual Career Program providing coaching and transition services supporting hundreds of relocated professionals and families. She served as Founding Director of the Greater TN HERC (Higher Education Recruitment Consortium) and established their DEI infrastructure, notably launching Employee Resource Groups and advancing community relationships. Janet previously served in as Assoc. VP of HR at Meharry Medical College, and Sr. Manager of Diversity at Dell Inc. In transition roles with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Janet established a community mediation model and coordinated the first statewide Economic Awards Program for the State of Tennessee's Economic Council for Women.

Janet is a proud graduate of Tennessee State University where she earned a B.S in Business Education. She began her career as Executive Assistant in the Department of Communications at TSU and later joined Gail Larsen and Associates, an employment placement agency as Office Manager. In 1978 she joined First American National Bank as a management trainee and enjoyed a twenty-two year career holding roles of HR Manager, Corporate Employee Relations Manager, SVP Workplace Diversity Director and Community Outreach Director becoming the first African American female to report to the CEO. During her tenure she served as the Coordinator for Nashville INROADS and is credited with impacting the diversity of the local financial services industry through her efforts.

Janet is a past CABLE President and first African American to Chair the Nashville ATHENA Awards. A former Metro Civil Service and Human Relations Commissioner and alumni of Leadership Nashville, Janet is founding President of Nashville Urban Bankers, Past Board Chair Middle TN Urban League and has held board and committee roles with numerous organizations including Bethlehem Center, Community Foundation Women's Advisory Board, United Way of Middle TN, Minority Business Development, YWCA, Fifty Forward, Nashville Workforce Network. Janet served as an instructor for the American Institute of Banking and has certifications in Employee Relations, Mediation and Diversity Recruiting.

Janet has received numerous awards and recognition including the Tennessean "Woman Making History in Tennessee", CABLE's Spirit of Leadership and Power of Inclusion Award, CES Harriett Tubman Award, YWCA Diversity Award, INROADS Coordinator of the Year and the VUMC MLK Award.

Married to Coach David Rachel, Janet has two wonderful daughters and four beautiful grandchildren.



# HONOREE

## DR. LADONNA BOYD

### MEDIA



“I stand before you as the proud leader of an organization that has lent its voice to positively uplifting the narrative of Black people. There is no greater time than the present to become a storyteller and shape the narrative of this experience. Through R.H. BOYD, we have a multitude of resources that showcase the beauty and diversity of the Black voice. Since its founding by my great-great-grandfather in 1896, we have been an active supporter and participant in the liberation of our people for five generations, and now is not the time to rest on our laurels.”

As president/CEO, Dr. Boyd is shaping and leading R.H. BOYD’s efforts to broaden its scope and offerings for modern needs. With a targeted focus on product development, technology, commercial (non-religious) printing opportunities, and author resources, Dr. Boyd has been preparing for a number of years to take the reins as a CEO—cultivating a wide range of skills necessary to lead the R. H. BOYD through a new generation.

Dr. Boyd completed her doctoral studies at Pepperdine University, where she received the Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership. She is also a graduate of Spelman College, earning a bachelor’s degree in economics, and Tennessee State University, where she completed a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Finance. She is committed to continued professional development, including earning a certificate in Digital Marketing Strategy from Harvard University’s Extension School. Dr. Boyd has traveled extensively around the globe and earned recognition for community engagement and service, and she is a proud, active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She also serves on various boards, including Citizens Bank, the National Museum of African American Music, the Nashville Ballet, and the Evangelical Christian Publisher’s Association.

Regarding her role at the company, Dr. Boyd said, “It is an honor to carry on the legacy of my ancestors, spreading the message of Jesus Christ through the written Word. We are committed to being a leader in providing Christian and inspirational resources for churches and communities across the country.”

The vision for R.H. BOYD going forward is to be the leading resource for storytelling through print, multimedia channels, data collection, events, and serving as industry experts. R.H. BOYD is also positioned to assist in the alleviation of social concerns and social injustices, in addition to fulfilling the need for Christian education, commercial printing, and educational resources.

“As a publishing company, we are storytellers. We have the ability to shape the minds and experiences of the masses. As a Christian company, we have the significant responsibility and opportunity to draw people into the Kingdom through the written word.”





# HONOREE

## DR. CHERAE M. FARMER-DIXON

### MEDICINE



Dr. Cherae Farmer-Dixon has overcome barriers in race, gender and academia, becoming the third woman to serve as dean of the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College. Her career in dental education spans thirty-two (32) years. Dr. Farmer-Dixon has also dedicated twenty (20) years of service to her country as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve.

The Dean is an academic scholar who immerses herself in published research activities dealing with oral health disparities, caries in low-income children, community outreach and intervention, and diversity in dental education. She also works tirelessly to address disparities within minority dental school enrollment.

She serves on numerous councils, has received a myriad of awards from students as well as local, state, and national professional memberships in several organizations. During the pandemic, she assisted and lead a team of volunteers at the COVID-19 testing site at Meharry and had oversight on behalf of the college of two other testing sites in the greater Nashville area. The Dean was inducted into the (2021) Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA) Hall of Fame and was recently selected as one of Boston University's Alumni Award recipients (2022). She is a distinguished 2019 alumna of the Nashville Healthcare Council of Fellows.

Dr. Farmer-Dixon is a native of Indianola, Mississippi. She is a graduate of the 1986 class of Mississippi Valley State University. She has also received the following degrees and certifications: Meharry Medical College Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree, 1990, and the School of Graduate Studies and Research Masters of Science in Public Health degree (M.S.P.H.), 1994; Tennessee State University Executive Masters of Business Administration (EXMBA), 2019; the Institute of Educational Management Program Certificate from Harvard University, 2017; and Boston University's Public Health Residency Certificate, 2014. Dr. Farmer-Dixon is a 2018 fellow of the International College of Dentists, a 2014 fellow of the American College of Dentists, a 2000 alumnae of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (ELAM) and a member of the 2003-2004 American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute class.

Passionate about serving and making a difference in the community, she is a member of the Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also a member of the Nashville Chapter of The Links, Inc., and currently serves as the National Director of the Health and Human Services Facet for this organization. She is a member of the Temple Church where she serves as a Girl Scout Volunteer for Troop 381. Dr. Farmer-Dixon enjoys spending time with her two young adult children, Tyler Olivia and Luke Dixon, along with mentoring young girls, traveling, and tailgating and socializing at football games.



# MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

## JULIUS “THE GENIUS” FISHER

### ENTERTAINER



Julius “The Genius” Fisher is an African-American, Musician, Singer, Songwriter, Producer, Promoter and DJ. Simply put, he is one of the baddest brothas on the planet! He is the founder of Astarfish Entertainment, Ceo of the Crush Record Label and leader of the Genius Band. As a performer in high demand, he has traveled the world spreading love and sharing his extraordinary gift for music.

Born and raised in Springfield, Tennessee just outside of Nashville Music City USA, Julius grew up in a musical family, his mother was the church pianist, his father a blues singer and guitarist. Early on, Julius began mastering several musical instruments. At age five it was crystal clear to his parents that he was a child protégée. He formed his first band at age eight and received his first paid gigs when he was only ten years old. During his school years, he studied under jazz legend “Tot” Randolph. With Randolph’s guidance, he received the John Phillips Sousa Award and the Semper Fidelis Award recognizing his exceptional musical gifts. He was highly recruited by several colleges including Berkley for music but enrolled into the University of Tennessee as a Pre-Med student. There he spent most of his free-time exploring various genres of music which influenced his eclectic

sound. Subsequently, the pull from the music community was so strong that he left medical studies to pursue his passion for music full-time.

Julius is known for his enthusiasm and energetic spirit. His distinct contemporary style can be described simply as innovative. Anyone who has witnessed a performance can testify about his showmanship. His peers have proclaimed him “The Genius” because of his superior musical abilities. His music is funky, fun, and has a consuming quality. It encompasses and interweaves various styles: Jazz, Blues, Funk, Gospel, Hip Hop, R&B, Reggae, Rock, Soul and Spoken Word in a symphony of musical bliss.

Julius “The Genius” has performed with After 7, Angela Bofill, Angela Winbush, Alex Bugnon, Bekka Bramlett, B.B. King & The B.B. King All-Stars, B.B. Queen, Betty Wright, Beverly Crawford, Bobby Jones & The Nashville Super Choir, Christopher Williams, Cissy Crutcher, Daryl Coley, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Denise LaSalle, Dorothy Norwood, The Drifters, Gary Jenkins (Silk), Glenn Jones, Ines Andrews, Isaac Hayes, Jean Carne, Jesse Powell, Joe Johnson, Keb Mo, Kim Burrell, Kyle Jennings, Kyle Whalum, Lamar Campbell, Laura Vida, Luke Bryan, Lynn Whitfield, Marion Meadows, Masa (Incognito), Melissa Morgan, Miki Howard, Miles Jay, Ole Woodson (The Temptations), Pam Crawford, Pamela Williams, Phil Perry, Robin S, Rod Wayne (Blue Magic), Shirley Caesar, Sinbad, Sy Smith, Tichina Arnold, Tommy Sims, Tramaine Hawkins, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Vickie Winans, Vickie Yoe, Victor & Reggie Wooten, Vasti Jackson, Waldo Weathers (James Brown Band), Wes Morgan, American Idol’s Ashton Jones, Corey Clark, Kimberly Locke, Melinda Doolittle, Nadia Turner, Sarina-Joi Crowe and many more! Julius has performed at The Library of Congress, The Kennedy Center, The Country Music Hall of Fame, The Musicians Hall of Fame, Ryman Auditorium and thousands of venues all over the world.

Outside of the music field, Julius is a Role Model, Teacher, Activist, Historian and Philanthropist who gives back to his community. He continues to look for new ways to better himself and to help those around him. He uses his gifts and intellect to make sound decisions and his word is his bond. This raw uncut musical genius is truly building a long-lasting legacy.



# HONOREE

## TAMAR WILLIAMS

### STUDENT AMBASSADOR



Tamar Williams was born in Memphis, Tennessee on March 2, 2003. She is the only child to Felica Richard.

Tamar attended Raleigh Egypt High School. While in high school, Tamar was involved in her school and community. She served as a representative for her class as well as an ambassador for her school. She represented her school at the Tennessee State Capitol while conversing with senators about changes students wanted to see happen in their communities. She was also a councilwoman on the Memphis Youth City Council and held a seat on the Shelby County Schools Student Congress for the 2019-2020 academic year. In June of 2021, she graduated from Raleigh-Egypt High School third in her class with honors.

Tamar entered Tennessee State University in Fall of 2021, on an academic full-ride scholarship. She served on the first cohort of the Freshman Institute and was inducted into the Honors College. She is majoring in Mass Communications with a concentration in Integrated Marketing.

She has recently been inducted into the 7th cohort of Leadership TSU this past spring. Tamar currently serves as the Secretary of the Women's Center at TSU. Tamar aspires to go into the career field of digital marketing and branding. She wants to focus on bettering the image of brands and marketing products through social media.

A quote she always remembers is "Embrace what makes you unique, even if it makes others uncomfortable. I didn't have to become perfect because I've learned throughout my journey that perfection is the enemy of greatness." by Janelle Monae.









# Women

OF LEGEND AND MERIT

## 2023 COMMITTEE



Brenda Gilmore



Debbi Howard



Latrisha Jemison



Marie Sueing



Sandra Hunt



# Women's

CENTER

## WOMEN'S CENTER AMBASSADORS

Aaliyah Dotson  
Amore Dixie  
Aria McElroy  
Brejae Chapman  
Courtney Cannon  
Eriana Pitts  
Faith Ware  
Gabrielle Mosby  
Jalyn Pridgen  
Jasmyn Choate  
Jayla Washington  
Karly Miller  
Kennedy Mickles  
Paige Jordan  
Paige Thacker  
Quentesha White  
Skylar Moore  
Stacey Bryant  
Tamar Williams  
Taylor Driver  
Zahyra Viel





# Women's CENTER

## WOMEN'S CENTER AMBASSADORS



Aaliyah Dotson



Amore Dixie



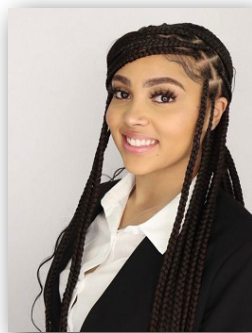
Aria McElroy



Brejae Chapman



Courtney Cannon



Eriana Pitts



Faith War



Gabrielle Mosby



Jalyn Pridgen



Jasmyn Choate



Jayla Washington



Karly Miller



# Women's CENTER

## WOMEN'S CENTER AMBASSADORS



Kennedy Mickles



Paige Jordan



Paige Thacker



Quentesha White



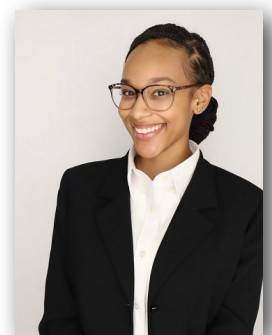
Skylar Moore



Stacey Bryant



Tamar Williams



Taylor Driver



Zahyra Viel



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE WOMEN OF LEGEND AND MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE AND THE WOMEN'S CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH TSU DEPARTMENT AND NASHVILLE BUSINESS/COMPANY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THE AWARDS RECEPTION AND DINNER A SUCCESS!

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# FORMER HONOREES

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

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Veronica Marable Johnson (2019)  
Vivian Michael Wilhoite (2018)  
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)

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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)  
Brenda Haywood (2022)

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Dr. Robbie Melton (2019)  
Tameka Winston (2018)  
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)  
Mrs. Phyllis Hildreth, JD (2022)

## GOVERNMENT/ POLITICS

Karen Johnson (2019)  
Many-Bears Grinder (2018)  
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)  
Judge Allegra Walker (2022)

## LEADERSHIP

Tina Tuggle (2018)  
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)  
Dr. Glenda Glover (2022)

## LEGAL

Cynthia Fitzgerald (2019)  
Cheryl White Mason (2017)  
Judge Angela M. Cox (2016)  
Mercedes C. Maynor-Falcoun (2015)  
Stacey A. Garrett (2012)  
Margaret Behm (2011)  
Angelita Blackshear Dalton (2010)  
Chancellor Carol L. McCoy (2009)

## RELIGION

Judy Cummings (2019)  
Renita J. Weems (2015)  
Becca Stevens (2013)  
Vashti Murphy McKenzie (2008)  
Science/Medicine 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)  
Tuwanda Coleman Shaw (2022)

## WOMAN OF STRENGTH, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

Joy Kimbrough (2019)  
Gwendolyn Vincent (2018)  
Elizabeth Wortham (2016)  
Sandra D. H. Hunt (2015)  
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





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# *Congratulations!*

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## *Janet Rachel*

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.,  
Metropolitan Nashville Chapter  
salutes our President Janet Rachel  
on her recognition as a  
2023 Women of Legend honoree.

*Congratulations to all honorees.*





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Dean, School of Dentistry,  
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