

Honors Induction (Crossing Over) Ceremony

**Friday, August 14, 2026
10:15 am CST**

Honors Induction Ceremony

Welcome & Occasion

Dr. Coreen Jackson, Dean of University Honors College

University Welcome

Provost Erik Schmeller, Tennessee State University

Presidential Remarks

President Dwayne Tucker, TSU 9th President

Candle Lighting Statement

Nadia Robinson, Miss Honors & Dorian Williams, Membership Chair

Honors College Pledge

Shelby Burris, President of Honors Student Council

Introduction of Inductees

Dr. Tyrone Miller, Director of University Honors College

Recognition of Honors Council

President of Student Honors Council

Closing Remarks

Dr. Coreen Jackson, Dean of University Honors College



Mr. Dwayne Tucker

Dwayne Tucker is the 9th President of Tennessee State University, a role he has held since September 2025. A distinguished executive leader with nearly 40 years of experience spanning human capital, operations, and corporate management, President Tucker brings a proven record of strategic growth, organizational transformation, and executive coaching to the University.

Prior to his presidency, Tucker served as Interim President of Tennessee State University from December 2024 to September 2025, guiding the institution through a crucial period of transition with stability, transparency, and a strong focus on student success.

He also served on the TSU Board of Trustees, chairing the Finance Committee from March 2024 to December 2024, where he provided oversight of financial strategy, accountability, and long-term fiscal planning. In addition, Tucker formerly served as Chair of Tennessee State University's Foundation Board, supporting the University's philanthropic strategy and advancement initiatives.

Before returning to his alma mater in leadership capacity, Tucker was the CEO of DT Consulting, founded in December 2010. His consultancy leveraged decades of executive experience and provided leadership development, organizational strategy, and coaching for senior leaders across multiple industries.

Recognized for his versatility and strategic insight, Tucker has been a trusted advisor to organizations navigating major transitions, offering expertise in leadership development, operational scaling, and organizational effectiveness. His expansive background across sales, operations, marketing, public relations, information technology, legal, human resources, and finance enables him to "speak the language of the C-suite" and mentor leaders on driving impact at the executive level.

In addition to his leadership at TSU, Tucker previously served as CEO of LEAD Public Schools, and is co-founder of Educate Nashville, a nonprofit focused on educational advancement. He currently serves as an independent board member for WoodmenLife Insurance.

Born in Austin, Texas, and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, President Tucker is a proud graduate of Tennessee State University, where he earned a B.A. in Business Administration in 1980. He resides in Brentwood, Tennessee, with his wife, Carmen. They have two adult children, Brandy and Dwayne Jr.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

(The Honors Council representative(s) invites everyone to stand and turn on their camera lights.)

Light serves as the symbol of the good and the beautiful, of all that is positive. The difference between light and darkness assumes such a general and metaphysical significance, and the advantage of light over darkness is so obvious and self-evident, that it serves as a sharp metaphor: "Wisdom excels folly as far as light excels darkness".

Light as a positive symbol is so prevalent that redemption, truth, justice, peace, and even life itself "shine," and their revelation is expressed in terms of the revelation of light. From this day forward, you have chosen to walk in the light, a light of truth, a light of righteousness, a light positivity, a light of peace, a light of responsibility, and lastly, a light of excellence.

You may now turn off your lights.

The Tennessee State University Honors College Pledge

The Community of scholars in the Tennessee State University Honors College is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Membership in the University Honors College (UHC) obligates each member to a code of behavior. At TSU Honors College, “honors” does not refer only to intellectual depth and academic rigor. Being an Honors College Scholar also means being part of an ethical community. It is understood that joining is evidence of subscribing to certain ideals and agreement to strive for the level of achievement and virtue suggested by the following:

- o As a member of the Tennessee State University Honors College, I pledge to think, work, and serve to the very best of my abilities, both inside and outside of the classroom.
- o I will strive to establish an academic environment that allows members of the Honors College community to grow academically and personally in a spirit of cooperation and fellowship.
- o I pledge to work to improve our neighborhoods, communities, and the world around us.
- o I will treat all members of the University community with civility and respect, regardless of national or ethnic origin, religious or social affiliation, heritage, disabilities, race, gender, or political affiliation.
- o I understand that fairness and honest competition are more than just words; they are core values that provide a foundation for our education. Plagiarism, cheating, and other methods of gaining an unfair advantage devalue my own work and the work of my peers and I pledge to not take part in them.
- o I pledge to uphold the values of honesty and integrity beyond the classroom, during activities such as educational travel, internships, common events, and in all events sponsored by Tennessee State University Honors College, the TSU Honors Student Council and the University. I pledge to uphold the values of honesty and integrity through my participation online including social networking sites.
- o I have read and understand these policies. I will uphold the high standards of Tennessee State University Honors College and adhere to all rules, codes, and policies thereof. Serious violations of any one of these policies will be reviewed by the Honors College Administration and Honors Advisory Board and may result in dismissal from the University Honors College or other penalties.

(Adapted from Macaulay Honors College)

**New Honors Incoming
Freshmen Students:**

Agoha, Nicole
Ali, Hibatullah M.
Alzuhairi, Karrar H.
Anne, Hamidou
Belser, Braylon T.
Blackburn, Kaycee
Boudreaux, Gabrielle M.
Carr, Adrienne N.
Conley, Kelsey O.
Costello, Cami
Covington, Christopher G.
Daise, Zion J.
Davis, Jayden W.
Diaz, Joaquin
Dowe, Landon J.
Ebosele, Angela O.
Fowler, Morgan A.
Goggans, Xavier R.
Griffin, Demariya L.
Hansberry, Blake R.
Harper, Sanai C.
Hawkins, Samayah
Hewitt, Courtney I.
Hill, Nadiyah D.
Jack, Christian B.
Jackson, Saniyah
Jenkins Ii, Marshal H.
Jenkins, Jakira A.
Johnson, David L.
Johnson, La'Nya E.
Johnson, Nora
Long, Jonas K.
Martin, Destiny B.
Mathews, Justin A.
McCall, Aiden C.
Mickles, Kennedy
Morris, Mikehi L.
Mosley, Cynia Z.
Neal, Kennedy J.
Phillips, Jaliah A.
Pollard, Imani S.
Purifoy-Smoots, Madison
Rhodes, Javian K.
Sailes, Kyras S.
Saine, Aubre N.

Shipp, Kylon J.
Tate, Tayvia
Traynham, Leila
Wilkins, Demirria D.
Williams, Arjahn
Williams, Kaylii K.
Williams, Taylor G.
Wilson, Katelyn I.
Wright, Caliyah

**New Honors Transfer
Students**

Apple, Donald W.
Beard, Lexie A.
Blackmon, Paris C.
Bond, Anaya Y.
Davis, Tyler
Dixon, Jazlynn R.
Fleming, Khalia D.
Hazel, William M.
Jackson, Kennedy N.
JeanJacques, Whitchyna
Little, Jordan M.
Mann, Olivia
Porter, Tyree D.
Powell, Ravyn L.
Sever, Kennedy S.
Siddiquee, Aisha K.
Tetteh, Kierra N.
Vinson, Tyler M.
Webster, Bryanna
Williams, Mckenzie A.

New Friends of Honors (FOH)

Barrett, Tracy L.
Black, Mia J.
Boyd, Korri A.
Brady, Joy
Brooks, Samuel
Guex, Rachel M.
Igwe, Stephanie
Jones, Asia D.
Love, Nehemiah E.
Martin, Journee
Miller, Meaghan S.
Offormezie, Chiamaka M.
White, Cabren

Young, Nayla S.

**New Honors Returning TSU
Students**

Bah, Jariatou
Barker, Eden
Bigsby, Katashia
Bradley, Bridgett R.
Brown-Jones, D'Nijah L.
Byrd, Chantz M.
Cole, Talia M.
Collins, Travis
Croft, Jada L.
Dhungana, Aayusha
Flores, Catalina
Fredericks, Je'Nece S.
Gaebler, Daijai
Gibson, Kiya R.
Gracey, Faith N.
Graham Howard, Caliya N.
Groves, Chasity M.
Haynes, Ke'Niya C.
Hughes, Anya J.
Hunter, Carrington N.
Jones, Sonaa' M.
Ledesma, Ashley
Mason, Alahya
Mathis, Jaiana
McKinney, Kiara J.
Mincey, Chassidy
Morris, Maya
Motley, Navaeh M.
Mucker, Kymorah
Norman, Alexandria M.
Ohazurike, Caroline A.
Randle, Jadon C.
Reynaga, Camila
Reynolds, Olivia M.
Robinson, Claire J.
Royster-El, Nia I.
Sholebo, Jadesola Y.
Strong, Myracle
Tipton, Rhiann
Wakefield, Jordan
Watson, Breyah M.
Woods, Makigh J.
Zeno, Dontavia

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

- James Weldon Johnson, 1871 - 1928

ALMA MATER

In the land of golden sunshine,
By the Cumb'rland's fertile shore
Stands a school for greater service,
One that we adore.
Alma Mater how we love thee,
Love thy white and blue
May we strive to meet thy mandates
With faith that's true.

THANKS & DEDICATION

We would like to express our sincere thanks to President Tucker, Provost Schmeller,
the College Deans, the Honors Student Council,
Honors Administration, Honors Inductees parents and guests for
your support and participation.