

Honors Crossing Over Ceremony

Sunday, August 17, 2025
2:00 pm - 4:00pm CST

Location: Forum

The Ceremony

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mistresses of Ceremony, President of Honors Student Council, Kennedy Johnson &
Kaitlyn Graham, Honors Council Secretary

National Anthem

TSU Wind Ensemble Directed by Dr. Reginald McDonald
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Introductions of Honors Council

Kennedy Johnson, President of Honors Council

Introduction of the Honors College Dean

Alexander Hall, Communications Chair

Occasion

Dr. Coreen Jackson, Dean of University Honors College

Introduction of Speaker

Melanie Anderson, Vice President & Kaitlyn Graham, Secretary

University Welcome & Remarks

Candle Lighting Statement

Melanie Anderson, Vice President & Melanie Anderson, Shelby Burrus, Vice President of
Operations

Honors College Pledge

Liana Jaz McBride, Ms. Honors & Blake Crawford, Mr. Honors

Introduction of Inductees

Dr. Tyrone Miller, Director of University Honors College

Closing Remarks

Dr. Coreen Jackson, Dean of University Honors College

Tennessee State University Alma Mater



Dwayne Tucker - President, Tennessee State University

Dwayne Tucker is the CEO of DT Consulting, founded in December 2010. Dwayne brings a unique blend of leadership, executive management experience, as well as significant executive coaching expertise. Serving for nearly 40 years as both a leader of Human Capital and an Operations Executive in the financial services and transportation industries, Dwayne has held the titles Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and General Manager with Fortune 500 companies First Data, Northwest Airlines and Alliance Data. As President of Alliance Data's Transaction Services business unit, Dwayne annually achieved double-digit revenue and profitability growth and successfully led teams of as many as 2,500 colleagues. His business unit profit and loss responsibility exceeded \$500 million. During his tenure as CAO,

Dwayne was responsible for setting corporate strategy and executing Human Resources, Marketing, Public Relations, Information Technology, and the General Counsel's Office. In his corporate CHRO roles, Dwayne was responsible for developing human capital strategies and policy for employee groups ranging from 7,500 to over 50,000.

Dwayne's diverse business background has resulted in a broad understanding of core corporate functions including sales, operations, marketing, public relations, information technology, legal, human resources and finance/accounting. This background also allows him to engage as a trusted advisor and coach to senior executives and leaders within a broad range of industries. His versatility has been invaluable to organizations facing transition where business courage, leadership, bench strength, and scalability were needed. Dwayne "speaks the language of the CSuite" and is able to coach others in the art of influence that is critical to long term executive success.

Dwayne currently serves as CEO for Lead Public Schools and formerly served as Chair of Tennessee State University's Foundation Board. He currently serves as an independent Board Member for WoodmenLife Insurance and he is also co-founder of Educate Nashville, a Non-Profit educational based initiative.

Dwayne was born in Austin, TX and was raised in Nashville, TN. He graduated from Tennessee State University with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1980. Dwayne resides in Brentwood, TN, with his wife Carmen. They have two adult children, Brandy and Dwayne Jr.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The Honors Council Vice President invites everyone stands and turns 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)

Fall 2025 New Honors**Students:**

Abbott, Javiar N.
Akbar, Fatima
Amoani-Antwi, Charles
Anderson, Deonna J.
Andrade, Edgar
Belcher-Brown, Justin K.
Blevins, Gabriella C.
Blue, Madison Y.
Bradley, Jadea M.
Brookens, Mareah E.
Brown, Aasha A.
Brown, Chase
Cannon, Zoe J.
Carney, DeLano
Cavender, Winston E.
Coleman, Amiyah J.
Cooksey, Victoria L.
Cooley, Kenya
Cornwell, Mason C.
Culpepper, Julia M.
Davis, Kierstyn
Dawson, Alexis
Fauntleroy, Jamiya L.
Fears, Jamesha R.
Ferrera, Aldo
Fethi, Sozit
Flowers, Nylah J.
Fredericks, Geniya L.
Gladney, Brelyn L.
Grimes, Ranyah E.
Harris, Kayshi-Anne L.
Houston, Jillian M.
Huff, Adonis J.

Labranche, Jalen
Ledesma, Ashley
Lett, Journi
Malone, Joshua
McCoy, Ashton K.
Mcgriff, Jordan A.
McMinns, Jania C.
McWilliams, James D.
Miller, Camille A.
Miller, Darius
Miller, Ivy E.
Momodu, Heidi
Nelson, Jada
Nguyen, Mitam
Odame-Lartey, Stephen
Okoye-Chine,
Chukwunwike O.
Oliver, Tymber
Pandey, Dipendra
Payne, Dericka M.
Pena, Sarah C.
Polite, Andrew C.
Pompilius, Hannah L.
Pryor, Daisia E.
Rahman, Lailah A.
Randle, Jadon C.
Reese, Solomon R.
Reeves, Javiell A.
Robinson, Joshua F.
Robinson, Nadia N.
Ruffus, Jordan R.
Russell, Kheri H.
Saahir, Na'Imah S.
Slay, Joya
Smith, Sydney A.

Talley, Noah M.
Taylor, Jayla A.
Taylor, Nadiah R.
Thomas, Jourdyn M.
Townsend, Dominic L.
Tungamirai, Julie K.
Turrentine-Johnson,
Simone N.
Ugwuoke, Chibueze P.
Usher, Kirsten
Vance, Kendra
Walker, Rayven S.
Washington-Cobb,
Maykayla J.
White, Landon
White, Taylor L.
Woodruff, Camille R.
Wren, Aniya S.

Friends of Honors:

Akins, Kim C.
Cannon, Keigan
Corona, Omar
Evans, Kaile
Gordon, India
Gracey, Faith N.
Hampton, Noah
Hubbard, Rayven J.
Jones, Emery C.
Kirkland, Victor J.
Matthews, Hayley
Sexton, Shaylon L.
Thomas, Journey L.
Wells, Sydney B.

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 Melton,
the College Deans, TSU Wind Ensemble, the Honors Student Council,
Honors Administration, Honors Inductees parents and guests for
your support and participation.