

10th ANNUAL
THE **DIAMOND**
ACADEMY OF
AWARDS
2026

Friday July
17th, 2026

InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta by IHG
3315 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30326

VIP Red Carpet & Reception 4:00 PM
Diamond Awards Ceremony 7:00 PM



———— BROUGHT TO YOU BY ————



LENOIR-RHYNE
UNIVERSITY



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



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THE NOT ALONE FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the awareness and prevention of kidney disease and enhancing the quality of life of sufferers by providing educational and medical resources and financial assistance for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families. Using the platforms of entertainment, wellness, arts and design as mediums to help forward our mission, NAF educates, inspires and uplifts, working determinedly to confront and conquer this global epidemic.

In addition to the integration of our four core programs, NAF supports interconnected health initiatives such diabetes and high blood pressure awareness, as well as cancer prevention and integrative treatment.

The Not Alone Foundation Inc., in its efforts to combat this global epidemic with impacting the quality of life of affected individuals, we do the small things that make a big difference! NAF is pleased to also partner with other foundations /organizations as community and civically engaged partners to support other initiatives, missions, & visions that perpetuate service above self for the greater good of the community.

The Diamond Awards is a program designed to honor faces and images of excellence in the entertainment, corporate and creative industries for their professional accomplishments and contributions to our society on a local, state, or international level.





THE NOT ALONE FOUNDATION

OUR IMPACT

Every year, more than 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney failure and more than 400,000 Americans suffer from (ESKD), which occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to function at a level needed for day-to-day life. The average estimated cost of a kidney transplant in the United States is more than \$250,000. The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for CKD and ESRD patients and their families.

The goals of the organization are two-fold: to help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list and to support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD. The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus following his own challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list. In addition to providing financial assistance for patients, the foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.





THE NOT ALONE FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 10th Annual Diamond Awards.

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families.

The goals of the organization are two-fold:

- To help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list
- To support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD. The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus and The University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Mark Dodd while awaiting the challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list, managed to provide financial assistance for patients. The foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.



MARK DODD

Chairman - The Not Alone Foundation





THE
DIAMOND



2022

Proud

THE NOT ALONE FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the board of trustees, senior leadership, and staff of the Not Alone Foundation, Inc, I welcome you to the 10th Annual Diamond Awards! The Not Alone Foundation is committed to embracing the needs of individuals that aligns with our mission, vision, and initiatives provided by the foundation.

As President of the foundation, I am humbled to serve; and dedicated to continue my commitment to the community through this distinguished charity.

As we celebrate the 10th Diamond Awards we pause to end the holiday season with acknowledgement of the Christmas season as we give to those less fortunate. The leadership of the foundation is proud to pay tribute to the global face of civil rights, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. day of service and birthday as a community production through the Diamond Awards that is the vehicle that introduces the celebration of Black History month; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion professionals; Essential Workers as Heroes; and our slate of luminaires that will be honored during this 10th Annual Diamond Awards presentation!



ROBERT JACKSON

President - The Not Alone Foundation



THE DIAMOND OF THE SOUTH

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Atlanta, Georgia, founded in 1837 as the end of the Western and Atlantic railroad line (it was first named Marthasville in honor of the then-governor's daughter, nicknamed Terminus for its rail location, and then changed soon after to Atlanta, the feminine of Atlantic - as in the railroad).

Today the fast-growing city remains a transportation hub, not just for the country but also for the world: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest in daily passenger flights. Direct flights to Europe, South America, and Asia have made metro Atlanta easily accessible to the more than 1,000 international businesses that operate here and the more than 50 countries that have representation in the city through consulates, trade offices, and chambers of commerce. The city has emerged as a banking center and boasts the third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the country.

Atlanta is the capital city of the Southeast, a city of the future with strong ties to its past. The old in new Atlanta is the soul of the city, the heritage that enhances the quality of life in a contemporary city. In the turbulent 60s, Atlanta was "the city too busy to hate." And today, in the 21st century, Atlanta is the "city not too busy to care."



INTERCONTINENTAL
BUCKHEAD

THE OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL FOR 2026

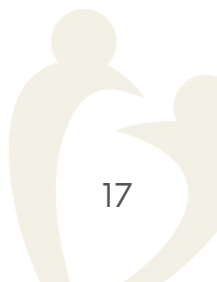
INTERCONTINENTAL BUCKHEAD

This year we are proud to be hosting the 20th Anniversary of The Not Alone Foundation and the 10th Anniversary Academy of the Diamond Awards at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta by IHG.

The Academy of the Diamond Awards Crown Jewel VIP Red Carpet Experience and Reception will begin at 4:00 PM in the Trippe Ballroom. The Academy of the Diamond Awards will be hosted in the Venetian Ballroom at 7:00pm.

INTERCONTINENTAL BUCKHEAD ATLANTA ADDRESS:

3315 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30326





THE DIAMOND AWARDS

THE PROGRAM

Americolor Opera singers have prepared the following selections:

OPENING SELECTION:

"Gloria" from The Revere Mass, Sharon J Willis

Juliet V. Anderson, Soprano

OPERA / MUSIC SELECTION:

"Pink Lady Trio" from The Pink Lady Opera

Reisha Lauren, Leslee Christopher, and
Theophania Darnice, Cast

"Wade" from Sunday Morning, Willis

Reisha Lauren, Soprano

GRAMBLING TRIBUTE:

"Wasn't That a Wide River," arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Michael McBride, Baritone

"Behold that Star," from 3kings and a PRINCE, Willis

Reisha Lauren, Sharon J Willis, and Juliet V. Anderson, Sopranos
Phyllis Beatles, Pianist





MELISSA BICKHAM

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Melissa Bickham is a healthcare technology and strategic consultant with more than 20 years of experience supporting electronic health record (EHR) implementations, workforce training, organizational readiness, workflow improvement, and large-scale technology initiatives across federal and commercial healthcare environments. She has supported projects with the U.S. Department of Defense, Henry Ford Health System, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Baylor Scott & White Health, Piedmont Healthcare, and other leading healthcare organizations, helping prepare clinical and operational teams for successful technology adoption and organizational change. Melissa also partners with colleges and universities to support strategic communications, prospective student outreach, student engagement, alumni relations, and institutional advancement, with a particular interest in supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As founder of Optimal Global Solutions, Inc., Melissa provides consulting services to both healthcare organizations and institutions of higher education. Her work includes implementation readiness, training strategy, organizational engagement, communications, workflow support, and initiatives that strengthen both operational effectiveness and institutional success.

A proud graduate of Grambling State University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Melissa is a former National President and Life Member of the Grambling University National Alumni Association and continues to serve through alumni leadership in Metro Atlanta. During her national tenure, she led initiatives supporting student recruitment, scholarships, alumni engagement, legislative advocacy, and stronger partnerships among universities, alumni, students, and community stakeholders. She also supports collaborative programming through the Atlanta HBCU Alumni Alliance.

Melissa is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the NAACP. Today, Melissa has remained committed to helping healthcare organizations and institutions of higher education strengthen operations, engage stakeholders, and achieve mission-driven results.



ROBERT L. JENKINS, JR.

HONOREE HIGHLIGHT

Robert L. Jenkins, Jr., a native of Charleston, South Carolina, is a graduate of historic Howard University located in Washington, District of Columbia. At Howard University, Mr. Jenkins obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in history. He received his Juris Doctor from the National Law Center at the George Washington University. As a collegiate Mr. Jenkins served as a Capital Hill Aide to the Honorable Arthur P. Ravenel of the United States House of Representatives. Upon graduation, he served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Ulysses B. Hammond, Executive Officer of the District of Columbia Courts. As Law Clerk to the Executive Officer, Mr. Jenkins served as an intra-governmental liaison between the District of Columbia Courts and the District of Columbia City Council, and the United States Congress. In addition, Mr. Jenkins duties included assisting the Executive Officer in the day-to-day administrative operations of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Jenkins actively handles a variety of criminal defense matters representing juvenile and adult clients. He has spent his entire career as an attorney principally defending citizens charged with offenses in federal and state courts. He has successfully defended individuals accused of drug-related offenses, sexual assaults, tax violations, as well as capital murder. In 1998 Mr. Jenkins' professionalism and accomplishments as a trial advocate were recognized with his election to the George Mason American Inns of Court as a Barrister. Since 2017 he has been listed among the top criminal defense attorneys in the Washington, DC area by the Washingtonian Magazine. He is a member of the Virginia State Bar and has been admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, United States District Court for the Districts of Colorado, Eastern District of Virginia, and District of Columbia.

Mr. Jenkins has appeared as a legal commentator on local and national television shows such as MSNBC Live. He has been featured on the reality series American Greed. Mr. Jenkins has been quoted in the both the Washington Post and Washington Times. He also routinely lectures as a Virginia Continuing Legal Education speaker on federal criminal defense issues.



XERNONA CLAYTON

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Xernona Clayton as an American civil rights leader and broadcasting executive. During the Civil Rights Movement, she worked for the National Urban League and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she became involved in the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later, Clayton went into television, where she became the first African American from the southern United States to host a daily prime time talk show. She became corporate vice president for Turner Broadcasting.

Xernona Clayton has been honored worldwide for her contributions to humanity, which includes: Bronze Women of the Year for Human Relations, 1969; Communications Woman of Achievement Award by the Atlanta Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television, 1984–85; First Black woman to receive The Trailblazer Award by the Greater Atlanta Club Business and Professional Woman; Superior Television.

Named one of Georgia's Most Influential Women 1984 and Black Georgian of the Year 1984; being included in Leadership Atlanta, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, 1971; named Bethune-Tubman Woman of the Year Award, Chicago, 1985; Named Woman of the Year by Black Women Hall of Fame foundation, 1985; T; named one of the nation's Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women by Dollars and Sense Magazine, 1985; being one of Seven Atlanta honorees for Black Achievers Award by the Equitable, 1986; being inducted into the Academy of Women Achievers by the YWCA, 1986; Communications Award by the OICs of America, 1986; American Spirit Award by the United States Air Force Recruiting Service, 1987; and receiving the President's Award by the National Conference of Mayors, 1983.

THE DIAMOND AWARDS

**FEATURED HONOREES
& DISTINGUISHED
PARTICIPANTS**

CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMANITARIAN & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



MS. TERRI M. LEE

President & Chief Executive Officer,
Atlanta Housing



MS. XERNONA CLAYTON

Founder, The Trumpet Awards;
Civil Rights Icon and Namesake of The
Xernona Clayton Humanitarian Honor

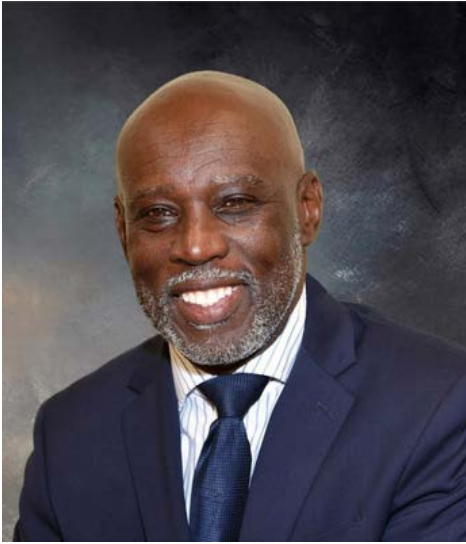
**American Civil Rights Leader
Lifetime Achievement Award**



**APOSTLE DWIGHT KEVIN
BUCKNER, JR.**

The Generation of Hope Church
**Faith, Humanitarian & Community
Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award**

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



ALVIN WASHINGTON

Chancellor
Southern University Law Center



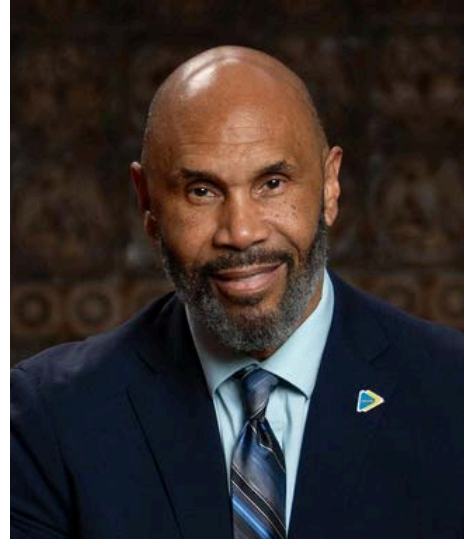
**PROFESSOR DENSIL A.
WILLIAMS**

Principal
The University of the West Indies
**Executive Leadership in Higher Education
Presidential Award**



**MARTIN LEMELLE, JR.,
D.B.A.**

President, Grambling State University
**Executive Leadership in Higher Education
Lifetime Achievement Award**



DR. DARNELL HUNT

Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost
University of California, LA (UCLA)
**Executive Leadership in Higher Education
Crown Jewel Award**

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



DR. ANTWON D. WOODS

Dean, School of Business, Alcorn State University

Executive Leadership in Higher Education Presidential Award



DR. DERRICK V. WARREN

Dean, Thomas and Joyce Morehead College of Business, Grambling State University.



DR. A. CLINTON MYLES

Provost
Talladega College



DR. KEITH A. ALFORD

Dean
School of Social Work
University at Buffalo

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



**DR. ANUMANTHA
KANTHASAMY**

Distinguished Professor
and Neuroscientist
University of Georgia



DR. ERIC M. BRIDGES

Honors Program Director,
Professor of Psychology, and
Faculty Athletic Representative,
Clayton State University

LAW, GOVERNMENT & JUSTICE



WILLIAM K. WHITNER

Partner & Global Co-Chair
Complex Litigation Practice Group
Paul Hastings LLP



ROBERT L. JENKINS, JR.

Senior Grand Vice Polemarch
Federal Criminal Defense Attorney

**Law, Public Policy & Legal Excellence
Presidential Award**



**CHIEF JUDGE CHRISTOPHER
E. WARD**

Municipal Court of Atlanta



JABARI WARNER

Attorney

K-12 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP



DR. MARK A. SULLIVAN

Superintendent
Birmingham City Schools



DAN SIMS

Superintendent
Bibb County School District

ARTS, MUSIC & CULTURE



CALLIE DAY

Internationally Acclaimed Soprano
**Arts, Culture & Creative Excellence
Presidential Award**



DR. SHARON J. WILLIS, D.M.A.

Founder & Director
Americolor Opera Alliance
**Arts, Culture & Creative Excellence
Lifetime Achievement Award**

BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP



AGU UKAOGO

President & Chief Executive Officer,
D2NeXt Investments; Luxury Real
Estate Advisor, Wealth Strategist
and Entrepreneur



CHANNING BAKER

Chief Executive Officer
Evolve Contractors

ATHLETICS



JAMES M. DUBOSE, JR.

Director of Athletics
Elizabeth City State University

**Intercollegiate Athletics Leadership
Presidential Award**

PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC SERVICE



**SHERIFF REGINALD B.
SCANDRETT**

Sheriff, Henry County
Georgia

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP



**PROFESSOR SHONTRAI D.
IRVING, J.D., M.B.A., M.C.J.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Business Law
Purdue University Northwest

**Law, Public Policy & Legal Excellence
Presidential Award**



JASON MALLOY

Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA)
Athletic Director

MIAAAA 1st Vice President

MHSAA Representative Council Member
John Glenn High School



MAYOR EDDIE LOWE

Mayor
Phenix City, Alabama

THE DIAMOND AWARDS

2026 AD BOOK

Congratulations to
DR. ANTWON D. WOODS, DEAN

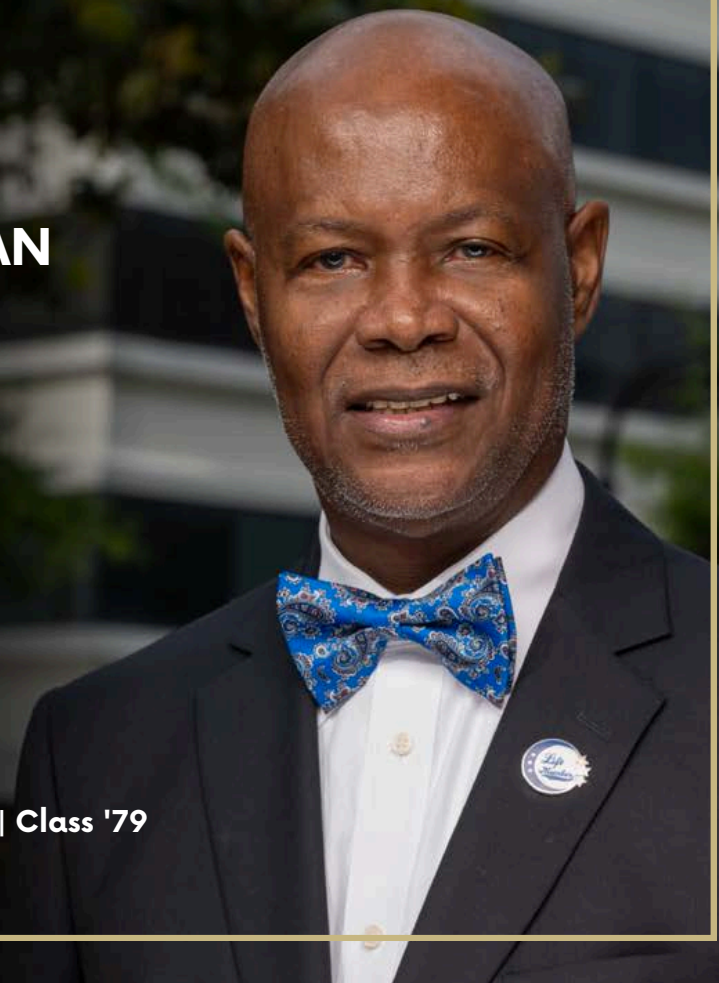
School of Business | Alcorn State University

Your vision for Alcorn has uplifted
the education value of the School
of Business and it's graduates!

Ado Ellzey

ADO ELLZEY, MBA

School of Business | Executive Advisory Board | Class '79



Congratulations to
TERRI M. LEE

from your



Family



**THE
CROWN JEWEL:**
Presidential
Diamond Award

In recognition of

**Transformational Housing Leadership,
Community Development, Economic
Empowerment, Humanitarian Service &
Community Impact**



Atlanta Housing is proudly building across the city, empowering residents to economic independence, and creating pathways to opportunity for future generations.

Congratulations!
DR. ANTWON WOODS



**ARUMIK
CONSULTING**
CONNECTING PIECES OF YOUR WORLD

**on the 2026 Presidential Diamond Award for Transformational
Academic Leadership, Institutional Innovation & Student Success.**

*Thank you for your visionary leadership, dedicated service to our students, and continuous support to build partnerships in our community. I am proud to know you as our dean and a friend! I can't wait to see the next steps in your journey!
Continue to defy all odds and soar above!*

Kim Hooper, Founder





A CENTURY OF SOUND

Since 1926, the World Famed Tiger Marching Band has transformed musicianship, precision and showmanship into a cultural force recognized around the world.

From Grambling to presidential inaugurations, international stages and a record six Super Bowl halftime appearances, the World Famed has carried the sound and spirit of Tiger pride across generations.

The performances are legendary. The standard is unmistakable. The legacy is still marching.

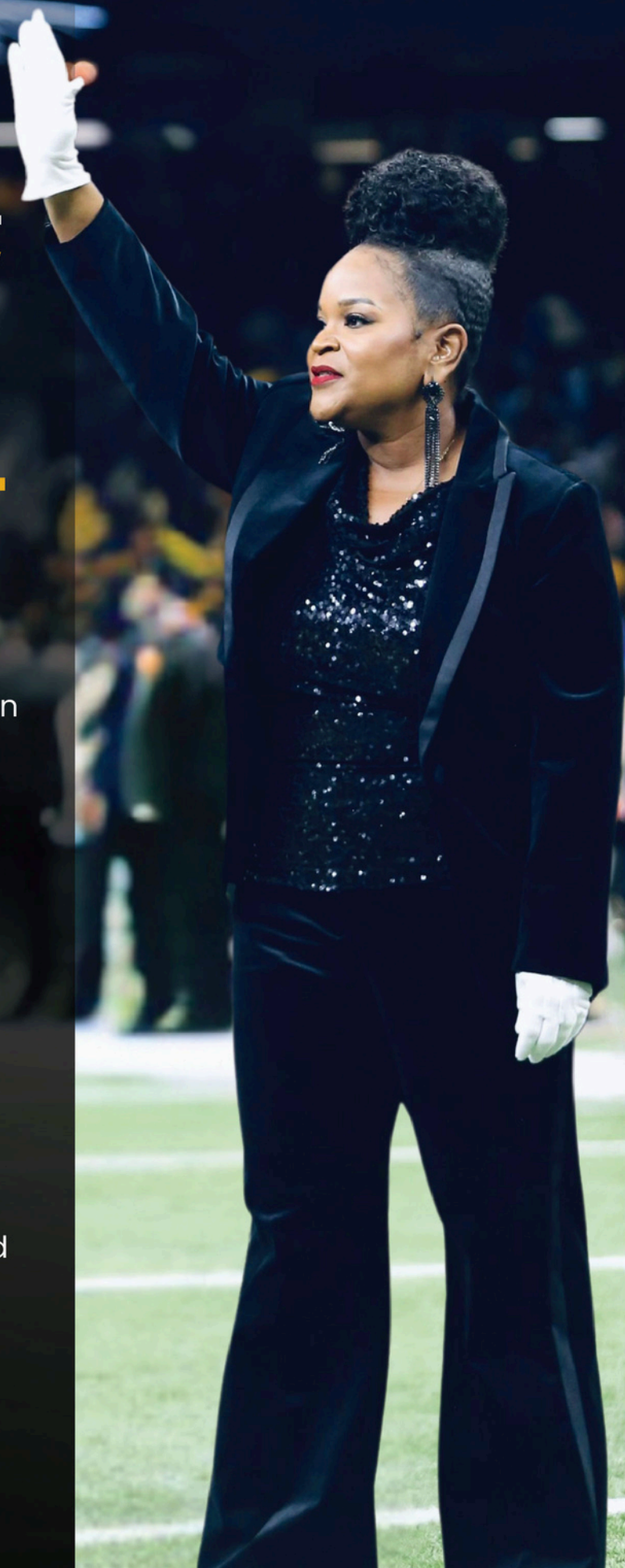
100 

HISTORY MADE. LEGACY IN MOTION.

As Grambling State University's first woman Director of Bands, Dr. Nikole Roebuck has made history while advancing the tradition of the World Famed Tiger Marching Band.

Under her leadership, students are challenged to perform with precision, lead with confidence, and represent Grambling with pride.

As the World Famed celebrates 100 years, Dr. Roebuck continues to honor its legacy and lead the band boldly into its next century.



126 GRAMBLING TIGERS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



HOME
VS. CLARK ATLANTA UNIV.
AUG. 29



HOME
VS. CENTRAL STATE
SEPT. 05



AWAY
VS. TCU
SEPT. 12



NEUTRAL
VS. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
SEPT. 26



HOME
HOMECOMING
VS. ALCORN STATE
OCT. 03



HOME
VS. JACKSON STATE
OCT. 10



AWAY
VS. ALABAMA A&M
OCT. 17



AWAY
VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN
OCT. 31



HOME
VS. ARKANSAS PINE-BLUFF
NOV. 07



AWAY
VS. BETHUNE COOKMAN
NOV. 14



NEUTRAL
VS. SOUTHERN
NOV. 28



Grambling State University Athletics

FAN FEST



August 15, 2026

Meet and Greet

Kid's Zone

Football Scrimmage

**Performances by
the World Famed
Tiger Marching
Band and Orchesis
Dance Company**



100

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
ATHLETICS

Football, Women's Soccer, Women's Volleyball & Cross Country



BECOME SOMETHING **MORE**

**The right place isn't just where you learn
— it's where you rise.**

At Grambling State University's Thomas & Joyce Moorehead College of Business & Entrepreneurship, you'll discover that your ideas can become ventures, your ambition can become leadership and your education can take you far beyond the classroom.

For 50 years, the College has prepared students to succeed in business and become the innovators, problem-solvers and entrepreneurs their communities need. Through AACSB-accredited programs, hands-on learning, industry partnerships and national competitions, students gain the knowledge, confidence and experience to lead in an evolving global economy.

**Join a nationally recognized community where potential is developed,
innovation is encouraged and bold ideas are given room to grow.**



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EXCELLENCE HONORED.

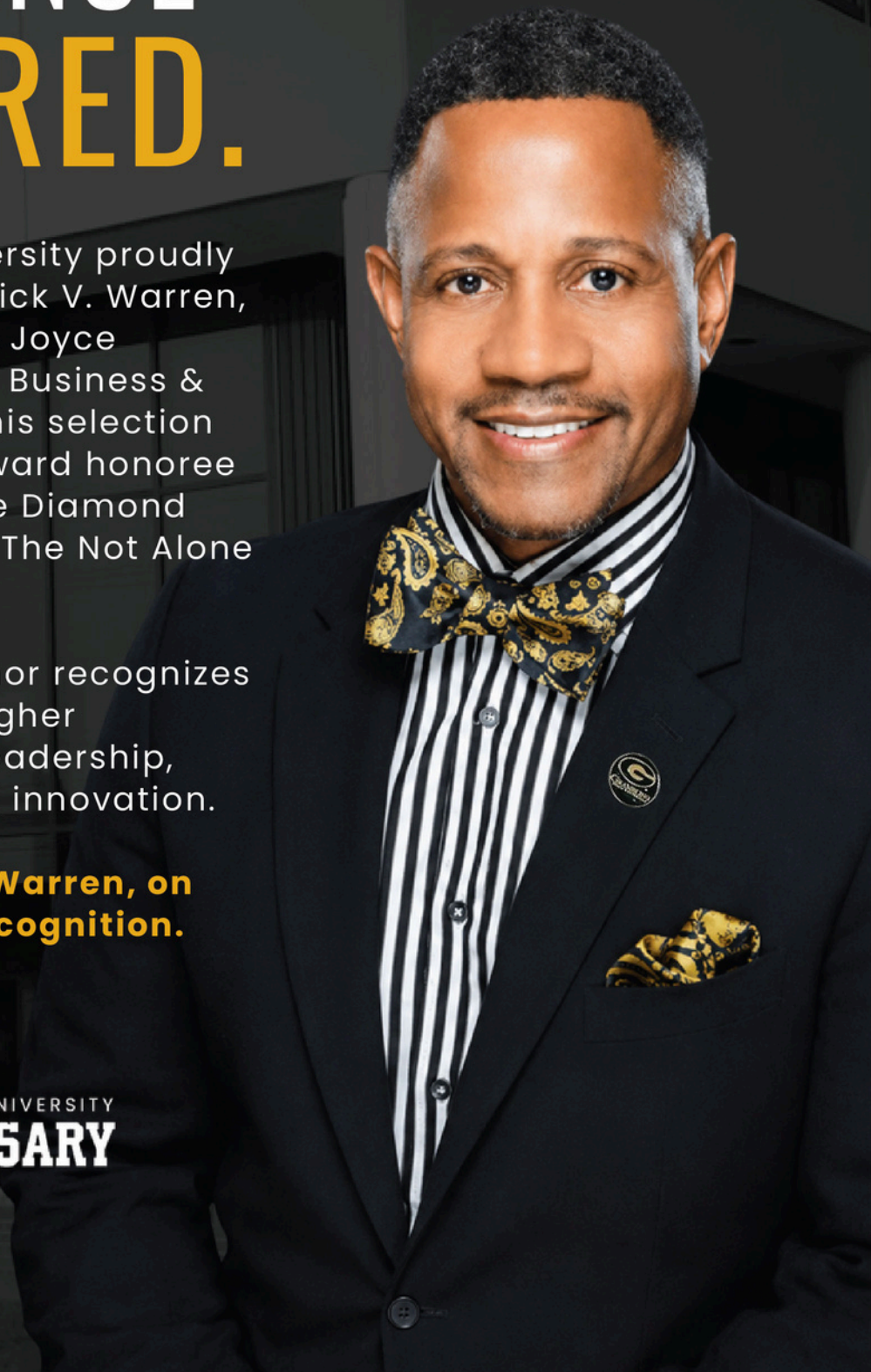
Grambling State University proudly congratulates Dr. Derrick V. Warren, Dean of the Thomas & Joyce Moorehead College of Business & Entrepreneurship, on his selection as a 2026 Diamond Award honoree by the Academy of the Diamond Awards, presented by The Not Alone Foundation, Inc.

This distinguished honor recognizes his contributions to higher education, business leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Congratulations, Dr. Warren, on this well-deserved recognition.



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
MULTIVERSARY





EXPANDING PATHWAYS | EMPOWERING POSSIBILITY

At Grambling State University, our purpose has always been rooted in creating opportunity.

For 125 years, that commitment has opened pathways for generations of students to pursue their ambitions and transform their lives. Every scholarship awarded, partnership formed, program strengthened, and facility enhanced represents meaningful progress. It brings a student closer to graduation, creates new possibilities for a family, and extends Grambling State's impact into communities around the world.

As we celebrate this multiversary moment, we are also preparing for what comes next. The investments made today will advance academic excellence, expand access, foster innovation, and provide transformative experiences that prepare students to lead in a changing world. Your support helps remove financial barriers and provides students with the resources, opportunities, and encouragement they need to succeed. It ensures that Grambling State remains a place where talent is recognized, potential is developed, and purpose takes shape.

Join us in connecting purpose with vision and vision with impact. Invest in the future of Grambling State University today.



View
the 2024-
25 Annual
Report



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
MULTIVERSARY

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NOURISHED HERE. NOTICED EVERYWHERE.

For 125 years, Grambling State University has prepared generations of leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Our alumni have carried the Grambling State spirit from classrooms and boardrooms to communities around the world.

It's not only the G you wear — it's the leadership you show, the resilience you carry, and the excellence you embody that make the world take notice of what it means to be a Tiger.

As we celebrate this multiversary moment, you remain our living legacy — honoring our past, shaping our future, and showing the next generation what's possible.



View
the 2024-
25 Annual
Report



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
MULTIVERSARY

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Congratulations
**DR. DERRICK
WARREN**

— ON BEING HONORED WITH THE —
**ACADEMY OF THE DIAMOND
AWARDS**

Presented by
THE NOT ALONE FOUNDATION

During its 10th Anniversary
Black-Tie Ceremony



JULY 17, 2026
ATLANTA INTERCONTINENTAL
BUCKHEAD

Dr. Warren, your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to excellence continue to transform lives and elevate Grambling State University. From empowering students in the College of Business to inspiring innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunity, you lead with purpose and passion. Your impact extends far beyond the classroom—shaping the future, building partnerships, and making Grambling stronger every day.

GRAMBLING ALUMNI EVERYWHERE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

*Thank you for your service. Thank you for your leadership.
Thank you for making a difference.*



With Tiger Pride and Deepest Appreciation,

Dr. Tammy Richardson

17TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT

GRAMBLING UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

GLOBAL LAW IN PRACTICE: A TRANSATLANTIC CLE EXPERIENCE

PARIS, FRANCE
OCTOBER 21–24, 2026

Join fellow alumni, attorneys, judges, and legal professionals for an unforgettable international CLE experience in Paris, France.

Registration is now open.

REGISTER TODAY
www.sulc.edu/ParisCLE2026

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
Packages starting at \$2,500

CLE REGISTRATION RATES		
Early Bird Registration	Before July 22, 2026	\$995
Standard Registration	Through October 1, 2026	\$1,295
Late/Onsite Registration	After October 1, 2026	\$1,495
Public Sector / Nonprofit Attorneys		\$895
Government / Judicial		\$795

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Once registered for the CLE, attendees will receive access to information regarding available travel packages for the trip.

For registration and sponsorship information, visit: sulc.edu/ParisCLE2026

