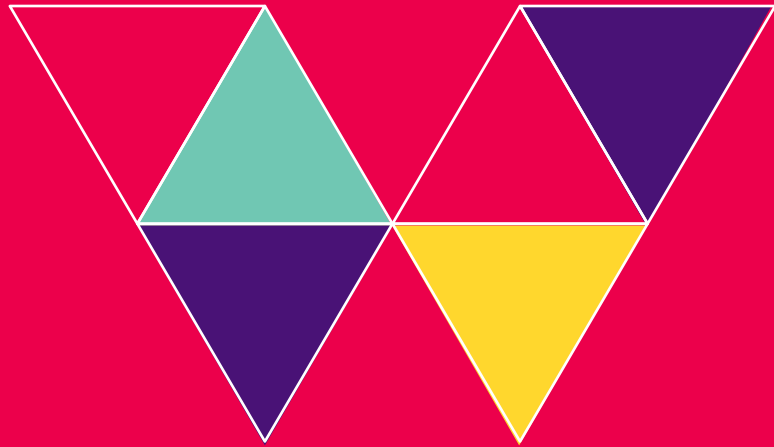


DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY



WINNING THE RACE

You are the "I" in Team



WINNING THE RACE

You are the "I" in Team

MARCH 27 - 29, 2022

**DELTA STATE
UNIVERSITY** 

CLEVELAND, MS | 1.800.GO.TO.DSU | WWW.DELTASTATE.EDU



Delta State University

Office of the President

March 27, 2022

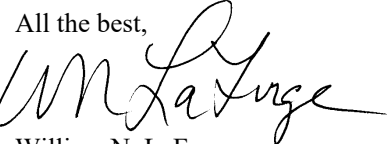
Welcome to Delta State University and to the eighth annual “Winning the Race” conference!

This year’s conference features versatile and outstanding faculty and presenters who will lead discussions on various ways in which race and race relations intersect areas of our daily lives — from politics, economics, health, and housing to education, entertainment, art, and science. This dynamic conference promises to be as enlightening and meaningful as our previous years’ experiences, and I welcome and encourage your full participation.

The Winning the Race Conference was developed with three overarching goals, and it is our hope that conference participants will benefit from the outcomes of each focus area:

1. **Engage** participants in conversations with campus and community constituencies that will build an appreciation for diversity differences and a spirit of community through shared ideas;
2. **Promote** a broad discourse on race relations by building conversations to bring together diverse communities in the Delta through sharing of ideas and building cooperation; and
3. **Rekindle** a hope that Delta communities will move toward greater equality while reducing racial disparities and tensions.

I am grateful for your engagement with Delta State in this signature conference, and I welcome you to our beautiful campus!

All the best,

 William N. LaForge
 President



All conference activities will be broadcast via Facebook Live unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, March 27

OPENING RECOGNITION CEREMONY 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Amzie Moore House Museum & Interpretive center
HONOREES: Lusia Harris, Lucy Seaberry, Sank Powe, Reggie Barnes

PRESIDENT’S LUNCHEON 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Jacob’s Conference Center, Ewing Hall
“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”
SPEAKER: Dr. Abe Hudson
MODERATOR(S): WTR Committee Members

Monday, March 28

STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION 8:00 AM - 8:45 PM

D&PL Theater, Bologna Performing Arts Center
DSU faculty and students collaborate to present various research topics that emphasize *the evolution of diversity, equity, and inclusion* in their respective fields.

OPENING SESSION 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

D&PL Theater, Bologna Performing Arts Center
“Root, Root, Root for the Home Team”
COACHES’ PANEL: Coach Jason Conner, Coach Todd Cooley, Coach Mark Hiller, Coach Chelsey Rhodes, Coach Janee Ford, Coach Taylor Taylor, Mr. David Kelly.
MODERATOR(S): Ambassador and/or Committee Member

COMMUNITY PANEL 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

PANELISTS: Dr. Tyrone Jackson, Dr. Temika Simmons, Mr. Ro Taylor, Ms. Nakikke Wallace, Ms. Sykina Butts, Attorney Carlos Palmer.
MODERATOR(S): Ambassador and/or Committee Member

HIGH SCHOOL LUNCHEON 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

East Lobby, H.L. Nowell Student Union
“Meet the DSU Dream Team”

Tuesday, March 29

FACULTY FORUMS 9:05 AM - 10:40 AM

Jacob’s Conference Center, Ewing Hall
College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Ellen Green, Dean
College of Business & Aviation
Dr. Billy Moore, Dean
College of Education & Human Sciences
Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dean
School of Nursing
Dr. Vicki Bingham, Dean

DSU STUDENT-LED SESSION 10:50 AM - 12:05 PM

Jacob’s Conference Center, Ewing Hall
“Team Green - Part 2”
HOSTS: Winning the Race Ambassadors

CLOSING CELEBRATION & AWARDS 12:15 PM - 1:45 PM

Jacob’s Conference Center, Ewing Hall
“Race to Refreshments and Rewards”
Conference reflections, recognitions, closing remarks, refreshments, and prizes.

COACHES PANEL



COACH TODD COOLEY is a native of Nashville, AR. He is currently the head football coach at Delta State University, where he has coached for 10 years. He has 26 years of coaching college football. Coach Cooley has twice been named Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year.



COACH CHELSEY RHODES is a native of Monticello, AR. She is a former Delta State University graduate and student athlete. Coach Rhodes has 4-year experience of coaching at Delta State.



COACH TAYLOR TAYLOR is a native of Grenada, MS and a resident of Cleveland, MS. She is a graduate of Delta State University, where she served as a graduate assistant. She is employed at Cleveland Central High School, where she serves as the Biology teacher and Head Softball Coach.



COACH JANEY' FORD is a 9th grade Algebra teacher and Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Greenville High School in Greenville, MS. She is a 2013 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. She received her Master's Degree from Jackson State University in 2021. Ford has been in the field of education for 8 years.



DAVID KELLY is a native of Silver Creek, MS. Kelly received a Bachelor of Science degree from MVSU, a Master of Education degree from Delta State University, and a Master of Science degree from Walden University. Coach Kelly is a former coach and current administrator in the Clarksdale Municipal School District. During his time as a coach, Kelly has served as an athletic director, a track and field coach, and a cross country coach.



COACH MARK HILLER is a St. Albans, England native. Coach Hiller earned his Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Business Administration from Ashford University and a Master of Business Administration from UL-Lafayette. He is currently the head Women Soccer Coach for Delta State University.



COACH DERRICK FEARS is a resident of Moorhead, MS where he serves as the head coach for the Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) Men's Basketball Team. He is a 20+ year coaching veteran, which includes a stint as a graduate assistant, assistant, associate head, and head coach. His coaching abilities and strategies have led to players going on to play Division 1 basketball and several playoff experiences.

COMMUNITY PANEL



DR. TEMIKA M. SIMMONS serves as Chief Public Relations Officer at Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, MS, where her focus is enhancing more equitable and inclusive opportunities across Mississippi systems and initiatives. Prior to her work at Delta Health Center, Dr. Simmons served as a tenured member of psychology faculty at Delta State University and the Winning the Race Chair for many years.



DR. TYRONE JACKSON is a native of Rosedale, MS also known as the "Delta City of Brotherly Love." He attended Delta State University (DSU) in Cleveland, MS where he received a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's degree in education, and doctoral degree in education. Dr. Jackson worked and served in a variety of capacities at Delta State and other Mississippi community colleges. He is currently the President of Mississippi Delta Community College.



NAKIKKE WALLACE is a native of Baldwin, Mississippi currently residing in Cleveland, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Nakikke is a triple alumna from Delta State University, and she is currently the Director of Career Services at Delta State.



RO TAYLOR is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. He is currently the Pastor for RUF Campus Ministry at Delta State University. He has been with RUF for 11 years total, with the last 5 years being at Delta State. RUF's vision for ministry on campus is to be "A Christ-Centered Cross-Cultural Community for Delta State".



SYKINA BUTTS is an alumnus of Delta State University and former Winning the Race Ambassador. During her time as a student, she worked with fellow classmates and local community members to promote civic engagement and voter participation on campus through Mississippi Votes' Democracy in Action Fellowship. Currently, she serves as one of the Youth Civic Engagement Coordinators of Colleges & Universities at Mississippi Votes.



ATTORNEY CARLOS D. PALMER is a native of Greenwood, MS. He earned a degree in English/Pre-law from Tougaloo College, obtained his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law and earned his Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Mississippi Valley State University. He currently practices law with his firm, Palmer Law Services.



DR. ABE HUDSON is a program officer for the Home Region program. Prior to joining the foundation, he was a Mississippi State Representative and worked with Delta State University as a Visiting Professor in the College of Business and as a Program Director at the Debt Education for Business Transformation and Sustainability Program (DEBTS) Program. Dr. Hudson has a passion for the Delta community and is an avid supporter of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Delta and beyond.



2022 Winning the Race Conference Georgene Clark winner
Iya Marie Turner

GEORGENE CLARK DIVERSITY AWARD

At the 2015 Winning the Race Conference, the inaugural Delta State Diversity Champion Award was given to and named for Professor Georgene Clark. This award honors a Delta State student, faculty, staff, administrator, campus organization or department who demonstrate a commitment to diversity in the areas of teaching/scholarship, service and leadership.

GEORGENE CLARK DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD PAST WINNERS

- Dr. Todd Davis, 2020-2021
- Linda Stringfellow, 2019
- Sofiya Dahman, 2018
- Dr. Garry Jennings, 2017
- Delta Center for Culture and Learning, 2016
- Professor Georgene Clark, 2015

The Diversity Advisory Committee evaluates nominees based on the following seven principles:

- UNIFY**—we are one society
- PERSONIFY**—gender is only a word
- IDENTIFY**—you love who you love
- TESTIFY**—speak for your beliefs
- DIGNIFY**—we are all capable
- DIVERSIFY**—if we don't, who will?
- EXEMPLIFY**—see beyond black and white

ABOUT GEORGENE CLARK: Professor Clark's commitment to diversity and social justice goes back to before her years at Delta State. A native of the Mississippi Delta, she was involved with local civil rights activism as a teen and young adult. At Delta State, she was a professor of English known for her exemplary teaching and the way she reached all students. Professor Clark was instrumental in the formation and leadership of the Diversity Advisory Committee, which works to promote a more inclusive campus environment. In 2014, President William N. LaForge called upon Professor Clark to co-chair the first Winning the Race Conference. Although Professor Clark is now retired, she is still an active participant on the Winning the Race planning committee. She remains a dynamic presence on campus even though her grandson, an accomplished high school senior, keeps her very busy. We are grateful for her efforts, leadership and her passion for diversity at Delta State.

Conference Planning Committee

Professor Michelle E. Johansen
DSU Diversity Committee Chair

Willie Gant
Housing & Residential Life

Professor Georgene Clark
Retired DSU Professor

Dr. Tomeka Harbin
Marketing and Business Administration

Dr. Addie Herrod
School of Nursing

Zina Taran
Marketing and Business Administration

Brittney S. Reed
Graduate Assistant

Dr. Joseph Lane
Social Science

FaDerricka B. Harvey
Institutional Research Effectiveness and Planning

Dr. Loretta Jackson
Social Work

Brittany Davis-Green
Office of Communications & Marketing

Dr. Natasha Barnes
Counselor Education & Psychology

Jalen Burns
Student Government Association

Avis Neal
Undergraduate Admissions

Emily Jones
University Archivist / Library

Professor Don Allan Mitchell
Languages & Literature

Zaida Laventure
WTR Student Ambassador

Ethan Burnett
WTR Student Ambassador

Kentaro Johnson
WTR Student Ambassador

Phiandrea Pruitt
WTR Student Ambassador



From left to right: Don Allan Mitchell, Dr. Tomeka Harbin, Dr. Loretta Jackson, Dr. Addie Herrod, Dr. Natasha Barnes, Georgene Clark, President William N. LaForge, FaDerricka B. Harvey, Willie Gant, and Emily Jones.

*Not all members are pictured above.

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Community Partnerships

- Artlife Studio and Noir Ceasar Entertainment, LLC
- Clarksdale High School
- Cleveland Central High School
- Delta Health Center
- Delta Party Rental, LLC
- Greenville High School
- Mississippi Delta Community College
- MS Votes
- Our Delta Table
- Palmer Law Services
- Walk by Faith Catering Services

University Departments

- Alumni Association
- Archives and Museum
- Bologna Performing Arts Center
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business and Aviation
- College of Education and Human Sciences
- Communications and Marketing
- Delta Music Institute
- Delta State Athletic Department
- Delta State Mailing and Printing Services (Okra Copy)
- Delta State Police Department
- Delta State University Library
- Diversity Committee
- Facilities Management
- Flavors at Delta State Dining
- Office of Academic Affairs
- Office of Institutional Grants
- Office of Student Affairs
- Office of Student Life
- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost
- Robert E. Smith School of Nursing

*Any views, finding, conclusions, or recommendations expressed as a part of this conference do not necessarily represent those of the conference sponsors and partners.