

For Immediate Release
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Talladega College President appointed to HBCU Advisory Board by President Donald Trump



Talladega, AL – Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins has been appointed by President Donald Trump to the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Dr. Hawkins is one of 13 prominent leaders appointed to the board, which advises the President and the Education Secretary on efforts related to improving the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs; engaging the philanthropic, business, government, military, homeland-security, and education communities in a national dialogue regarding new HBCU initiatives; and improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions that advance the interests of all Americans. The Board also aids in elevating awareness of and fostering appreciation of HBCUs, and encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

“It is a great honor to be appointed to the Advisory Board by President Trump, and I look forward to working with fellow board members to strengthen and expand the capacity of HBCUs,” said Dr. Hawkins, who has served as president of Talladega since January 1, 2008.

During his distinguished tenure at the College, Dr. Hawkins has stabilized finances; increased fundraising; expanded academic offerings; and successfully guided the institution through a ten year SACS accreditation. As a result of his leadership, the College reached a record-breaking enrollment increase during the 2018-2019 academic year and the campus is undergoing a major physical transformation. A new residence hall opens this winter; a student center is under construction; and ground has been broken on the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art. The College has also launched its first-ever graduate program, a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems.

Dr. Hawkins is vice-chair of member institutions for the UNCF board of directors, the first African American to chair the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the author of two books. He is a member of the Talladega Rotary Club, the Delta Upsilon Boule and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, and a recipient of the Vanguard Award from the Higher Education Leadership Foundation and the Colonel Leo Thorsness Courage Award.

The Kent, Ohio native holds a B.S. in Teacher Education; an M.A. in Education Administration; and a Ph.D. in Education. He has completed post doctorate study at Harvard University. Dr. Hawkins and his wife Lucy reside in Talladega, AL.

About Talladega College

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is the home of the renowned Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals, which received rave reviews from the *New York Times* during a three-year, eight-city tour.