



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

103rd Annual
FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

Sunday, April 11, 2021
11:00 a.m.
Virtual Ceremony

Guest Speaker
DR. RONALD S. ROCHON '83
President, University of Southern Indiana



Dr. Ronald S. Rochon became the University of Southern Indiana's fourth president in July 2018, after eight years serving USI as provost.

In his first year as president, he successfully secured over \$61 million in state funding for capital projects and operations from his first biennial budget presentation to the Indiana Legislature. The university also experienced increased growth in the performance funding metrics of overall degree completion, at-risk degree completion, STEM degree completion, student persistence, and on-time graduation rate.

Under his leadership, the University has implemented its third Strategic Plan: Accelerating Impact – which includes goals for improving student success, fostering impactful engagement, elevating the visibility and reputation of the university, and strengthening its financial viability, all of which he plans to achieve through collaborative community, regional, state, national, and global initiatives. He intentionally guides the university to be a catalyst for change, creating a talented, educated citizenry that meets the entrepreneurial and workforce needs of society.

Rochon's academic and professional career has focused on advocating for educational excellence, access, equity and equality. He has taught classes on the history of American Education, culturally relevant and responsive teaching practices within Pre-K through grade 12 schools, and organizational leadership within higher education settings. His body of work has centered on the needs of diverse learners within underserved schools and communities as well as their integral contributions to the larger society.

During his tenure as provost, Rochon oversaw the revamping of the University Core Curriculum and UNIV 101 seminar course, led the establishment and approval process of USI's second doctoral program in education leadership, advanced new opportunities and programs for undergraduate, graduate, and online learning students, and fostered new approaches to recruit both domestic and international students to campus and developed programs to help them excel.

Dr. Rochon was appointed to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet by Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb in October 2020. An active civic leader, Rochon serves on the boards of WNIN Public Broadcasting, Deaconess Health Systems, and the Economic Development Coalition, among others. In the broader higher education community, he serves as on the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference Council of Presidents and the American Association of Colleges and Universities Board of Directors. Nationally, he serves as board director for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Rochon came to USI from Buffalo State in Buffalo, New York, where he served as the inaugural dean of the School of Education, associate vice president for Teacher Education and professor. He was director and co-founder of the Research Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, as well as interim associate dean and director of the school of education. In 2010, he also served as chair of the Board of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (Washington, DC). His professional teaching career has included work at Texas A & M University, Washington State University, and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

President Rochon earned a bachelor's degree at Tuskegee University and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His doctoral work was in educational policy studies, with an emphasis in educational history and policy analysis. President Rochon and Mrs. Lynn Wade Rochon are both natives of Chicago, Illinois. They are the proud parents of son, Ayinde C. Rochon, and daughter, Nia M. Rochon.

Order of Service

Charlotte P. Morris, Ph.D.
Interim President
Presiding

THE PRELUDE..... *"Menuet Gothique"*..... Léon Boëllmann

THE INVOCATION..... Gregory S. Gray, Ph.D., M.Div.
Dean of the Chapel

THE GREETINGS..... Norma B. Clayton
Chair, Tuskegee University Board of Trustees
Skylar Rugley
Miss Tuskegee University

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER..... Interim President Morris

THE ADDRESS..... Ronald Rochon, Ph.D.
President, University of Southern Indiana

CHOIR SELECTION *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*..... arr. Nathan Carter
Tuskegee University Golden Voices Concert Choir

RECOGNITIONS

The Descendants of Dr. Booker Taliaferro Washington and Lewis Adams..... Interim President Morris

ALUMNI GREETINGS Lillie Lanier
President, Tuskegee National Alumni Association, Inc.

Reunion Classes: 1945, 1946, 1950, 1951, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1975, 1976, 1980, and 1981
& Eminent Presidential Associates..... Kymberly Holland
Coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Reunion Programs

CLOSING REMARKS..... Interim President Morris

THE ALMA MATER..... *"The Tuskegee Song"*..... by Paul Laurence Dunbar/N. Clark Smith

THE BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*..... Peter C. Lutkin
Gregory S. Gray, Ph.D. and Golden Voices Choir

ORGAN POSTLUDE..... *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*..... Paul Manz
Wayne A. Barr, DMA

*The following persons have honored the memory of
Dr. Booker T. Washington and Lewis Adams
by delivering the Founders' Day Address at Tuskegee University*

The Honorable William G. Wilcox	1917	Dr. James M. Nabrit Jr.	1966
The Honorable P.P. Claxton	1918	Dr. John A. Hannah	1967
The Honorable Emmett O'Neal	1919	Dr. Paul A. Miller	1968
The Honorable William H. Taft	1920	The Honorable Carl T. Rowan	1969
Dr. M. Ashby Jones	1921	The Honorable Andrew F. Brimmer	1970
Unveiling of the		His Excellency, John J. Akar	1971
Dr. Booker T. Washington Memorial	1922	The Honorable Sidney P. Marland	1972
Dr. Wallace Buttrick		Mr. Melvin A. Glasser	1973
Dr. George Cleveland Hall		Dr. Franklin H. Williams	1974
The Honorable Josephus Daniels		Dr. Roger William Heyns	1975
Dr. Samuel C. Mitchell	1923	Dr. Herman R. Branson	1976
Dr. Talcott Williams	1924	Dr. Jerome H. Holland	1977
Dr. James H. Dillard	1925	Dr. Russell G. Mawby	1978
Dr. Frances G. Peabody	1926	The Honorable Walter F. Mondale	1979
Dr. Edwin Mims	1927	The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh	1980
Sir Winfred T. Grenfell	1928	The Honorable George H.W. Bush	1981
Dr. John H. Finley	1929	Dr. Samuel D. Proctor	1982
Dr. John J. Tigert	1930	Dr. James A. Joseph	1983
50th Anniversary Exercises	1931	Dr. Bernard C. Watson	1984
The Honorable Herbert Hoover		The Honorable Andrew J. Young Jr.	1985
Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes		Dr. John E. Jacob	1986
Dr. W.C. Jackson	1932	The Rev. Leon H. Sullivan	1987
Dr. Arthur Howe	1933	The Honorable Damon J. Keith	1988
Dr. Thomas J. Jones	1934	Dr. James E. Cheek	1989
Dr. Kelly Miller	1935	Dr. Deborah P. Wolfe	1990
Dr. Emmett Jay Scott	1936	Dr. Clifford V. Smith Jr.	1991
The Honorable John Temple Grave II	1937	Dr. Earl G. Graves	1992
Mr. Jackson Davis	1938	Dr. David T. Shannon	1993
The Honorable Arthur W. Mitchell	1939	Dr. Eldridge W. McMillan	1994
The Honorable James A. Farley	1940	Dr. James Earl Massey	1995
Dr. G. Lake Imes	1941	The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary	1996
Dr. Robert E. Park	1942	Dr. William P. Hytche	1997
The Honorable Chauncey Sparks	1943	The Honorable Robert Benham	1998
Dr. Frank P. Graham	1944	Dr. Gregory S. Gray	1999
Dr. Harry V. Richardson	1945	Dr. William Wesley Morris	2000
The Honorable Henry A. Wallace	1946	Dr. Charles G. Adams	2001
The Honorable Edwin T. Embree	1947	Dr. William G. Gray III	2002
Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr	1948	Dr. Calvin O. Butts III	2003
The Honorable Charles D.B. King	1949	Mr. Theodore M. Pryor	2004
Dr. O'Hara Lanier	1950	Ms. Bess Stephens	2005
The Honorable William L. Dawson	1951	The Rev. Peter J. Gomes	2006
Dr. Emory Ross	1952	The Honorable Shirley Franklin	2007
Dr. Guy Benton Johnson	1953	Dr. Kenneth Marvin Hamilton	2008
Dr. Ernest O. Melby	1954	The Honorable John R. Lewis	2009
Dr. Ambrose Caliver	1955	Dr. Benjamin F. Payton	2010
Dr. Buell G. Gallagher	1956	Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Leon A. Johnson (USAF)	2011
The Honorable Frances P. Bolton	1958	Dr. Marvalene Hughes	2012
Dr. John Hope Franklin	1959	Dr. Luther S. Williams	2013
Dr. William E. Stevenson	1960	Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles E. Williams	2014
Dr. Alvin C. Eurich	1961	Robert L. Curbeam Jr.	2015
Dr. Basil O'Connor	1962	Dr. Emmett D. Carson	2016
Dr. John Gardner	1963	Dr. William R. Harvey	2017
Dr. Harlen Hatcher	1964	Dr. Paul Devlin	2018
His Excellency, Alex Quaison-Sackey	1965	Sarah Washington O'Neal Rush	2019

The Tuskegee Song

Tuskegee, thou pride of the swift growing South
We pay thee our homage today
For the worth of thy teaching, the joy of thy care;
And the good we have known 'neath thy sway.
Oh, long-striving mother of diligent sons
And of daughters whose strength is their pride,
We will love thee forever and ever shall walk
Thro' the oncoming years at thy side.

Thy Hand we have held up the difficult steeps,
When painful and slow was the pace,
And onward and upward we've labored with thee
For the glory of God and our race.
The fields smile to greet us, the forests are glad,
The ring of the anvil and hoe
Have a music as thrilling and sweet as a harp
Which thou taught us to hear and to know.

Oh, mother Tuskegee, thou shinest today
As a gem in the fairest of lands;
Thou gavest the Heav'n-blessed power to see
The worth of our minds and our hands.
We thank thee, we bless thee, we pray for thee years
Imploring with grateful accord,
Full fruit for thy striving, time longer to strive,
Sweet love and true labor's reward.



Founders Booker T. Washington (seated, in the center) and Lewis Adams (seated, far right), surrounded by the institute's faculty and staff; circa early 1900s.



Booker T. Washington



Lewis Adams