

BENEDICT COLLEGE



**PROGRAM FORMAT AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE
FOUNDER'S DAY CONVOCATION 2024**

**11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024**

ANTISDEL CHAPEL

**DR. ROSLYN CLARK ARTIS
PRESIDENT AND CEO**

#TheBESTofBC

**Founder's Day Convocation
Program Format and Script
March 14, 2024**

**Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
President and CEO
*Presiding***

NOTES: All banners and flags will be pre-staged.

Faculty and staff who adorn full academic regalia are asked to be seated in a reserved section (right side, facing the stage) in Antisdel Chapel by 10:30 am.

Half-Century Club Members and alumni are asked to be seated in a reserved section (center section) in the Chapel by 10:30 am.

The line-of procession will form on the first floor of the Administration Building between 10:30 and 10:40 am. The procession will depart the Administration Building at 10:50 am. The procession into Antisdel Chapel will begin at 11:00 am.

1. Prelude

The Klaxon March by Henry Fillmore

The Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble

Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Director of Bands

Mr. Ronald T. Green, Assistant Director

The Prelude begins at 10:50 a.m. and ends when the platform party arrives at Antisdel Chapel.

At 11:00 a.m., Chief Marshal, Dr. Tracy Dunn, signals Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Director of Bands, to play music for the procession.

The assembly will stand when the academic procession enters the Chapel and remain standing through the singing of *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*.

2. The Academic Procession: *Pomp and Circumstance* by Elgar
Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble

a. Chief Marshal- **Dr. Tracy Dunn**

b. The College Mace-**Dr. Victor Oyinbo**

c. **President Roslyn Clark Artis**

d. Platform Party

3. The Anthems

After the procession ends, Dr. Tracy Dunn, Chief Marshal, provides two notifications:

1. Signal the Instrumental Ensemble to play the National Anthem.
2. Signal the Choir to sing *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*.

Dr. Dunn moves to her seat.

President Artis moves to the podium and asks the audience to be seated.

Pause—Dr. Artis asks the ushers to direct those who are waiting to sit in the available seats.

4. The Opening Remarks

Dr. Roslyn C. Artis
President and CEO

Dr. Artis: Good morning and welcome to the Benedict College 2024 Founder's Day Convocation.

For more than 150 years, Benedict College has pushed boundaries, lifted voices, and guided the passions of more than 18,000 ordinary graduates who have written extraordinary histories. They wrote history across the campus, in its classrooms, on its fields, on its monuments, murals, plaques, and in the hearts of communities in South Carolina. Few could have imagined in 1870 the impact that this enduring educational institution, founded by Mrs. Bathsheba Benedict, would have in the years to come. Mrs. Benedict believed that “the greatest tools for a successful life were the education of the mind and the nurturing of the spirit.” Still hearing her poignant message of faith, this Founder's Day Convocation looks back and then points forward as the College relishes its emergence from “a dilapidated plantation” with a determined purpose to educate formerly enslaved men and women to become preachers and teachers.

Over the years, Benedict College broadened its mission and academic parameters to serve this current generation of students while continuing to be

a special place of learning, a cornerstone for community activism, and a leader in changing the trajectory of the lives that she touches. We stand on a foundation of educational excellence that has been handed to us from previous generations of teachers, administrators, and leaders. They firmly believed that “there will be no attempt to hasten the student to the detriment of his drill, but due regard to complete preparation for his life work will be the ideal, rather than a superficial smattering and flash show, and speedy completion of his time of preparation.” The current men and women of Benedict College are writing new histories, breaking old barriers, and creating a myriad of transformational educational initiatives for the future. They range from E-sports, to cybersecurity, pre-law, supply chain management, pe-med, engineering, the arts, the establishment of a Women’s Business Center, a BEST Lives Program, and a graduate program so that the legacy of “BC” continues as “inclusive, pioneering, and family-oriented is respected and cherished.” To God, be the glory!

The College began celebrating The Founder’s Day Convocation in March 1997 to complement the longstanding Founder’s Day Rally. This Convocation is a special occasion to celebrate the history of this institution and to applaud Half-Century Club members, other alumni, and our currently enrolled students. Yet, there still resounds throughout this special occasion a sense of purpose, history, destiny, and duty that are emblazoned in the DNA of this and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and was so stridently articulated by a Benedict College Board of Trustees member in 1920, when he said: “The time was past thank God when you can [*sic*] be sold. See to it that the time does not, must not, come-when you can be bought.”

With your continued support, we will continue to meet the challenges of today and to provide innovative educational opportunities for tomorrow. We will empower our graduates to go from 1600 Harden Street back to their communities, across the nation, and around the world bringing with them great intelligence, social consciousness, and “TheBESTofBC” to lead those whom they find in the dark places to better places, where “the golden sunshine falls.”

Dr. Artis makes additional comments as she deems necessary.

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis: I invite Student Campus Minister Cameron Seawright to the podium to give the invocation. He will be followed by Ms. Morgan Miles, Miss Benedict College, 2023-2024, who will provide the Occasion. The convocation will then proceed as printed.

4. The Invocation

Student Minister Cameron Seawright goes to the podium to give the invocation.

5. The Occasion

Ms. Morgan Miles

Miss Benedict College, 2023-2024

6. The Reading of the History of Benedict College

Mr. Scott E. Blanks

Professor of Theater

Communication and Arts Department

7. Music: *Grateful Medley*

The Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble

Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Director of Bands

Mr. Ronald T. Green, Assistant Director of Bands

8. The Introduction of the Convocation Speaker

Mr. Darious Rubin

Mister Benedict College

2023-2024

9. The Convocation Speaker

Attorney James White, III

Interdisciplinary Studies Major, Class of 2015

Assistant Solicitor

Fulton County, Georgia

10. The Response

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

President and CEO

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis: This is a proud day for Benedict College because we have seen the fruits of our labors manifested through the life story and powerful presentation from our keynote speaker. Your story is an inspiration to all of us and speaks truth to the essence of Benedict College's belief that by giving young men and women a **second chance** - we give America **another chance** to see their skills, their true character, and their capacity to make real the American dream. Thank you for sharing your time,

thoughts, and experiences with us and please always continue to represent #TheBESTof BC.

Dr. Artis:

Dr. Artis presents a gift to the speaker.

Dr. Artis: In grateful recognition of your achievements and as the keynote speaker for the Founder's Day Convocation 2024, I am pleased to present, on behalf of Benedict College, this gift in appreciation for your participation in this convocation.

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis:

Please give Attorney James White, III another round of applause.

Dr. Artis: The College appreciates the excellent performances that the Instrumental Ensemble and College Choir provide at all College Convocations and other programs. Let us show our appreciation to Mr. H. Wade Johnson, Mr. Ronald T. Green, and the Instrumental Ensemble for their excellent rendition of *Grateful Medley*.

At this time, we invite the College Choir and Director J. David Bratton to sing *The Eyes of All/When the Saints Medley* by Jean Berger and Donald Lawrence. Let us show our appreciation to the choir with warm applause.

11. Music:

The Eyes of All/When the Saints Medley by Jean Berger and Donald Lawrence.

The Benedict College Choir

Mr. J. David Bratton, Director

12. The Induction of Alumni into the Benedict College Half-Century Club

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis:

It is a tradition at the Founder's Day Convocation that we induct alumni into the Benedict College Half-Century Club. Eligible inductees must have graduated from the College fifty years ago and continue to represent "The BESTof BC." Today, Benedict College is proud to induct the following members of the Class of 1974 into the Half-Century Club. Please stand and be recognized as your names are called.

Half -Century Inductees

Class of 1974- Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Mrs. Jerry Evans Belton
Mr. Charles J. Boykin
Mr. Earl L. Brooks
Mrs. Jacqueline Mitchell Brooks
Mrs. Lelia T. Clark
Mrs. Thelma Egister Clavon
Bishop Dr. Linwood Cooper
Mrs. Roberta Crum
Mrs. Linda M. Dawson
Mrs. Theopia A. Deas
Mr. Richard Lee Dixon
Ms. Gail D. Ferguson
Mrs. Jacqueline Wilson Gantt
Ms. Deloris Glymph
Mrs. Teshine G. Good
Mrs. Queenie L. Rock Green
Mrs. Bobby Ann Pasley Greene
Ms. Mary L. Harmon
Mrs. Doreen M. Heath
Ms. Ernestine Fern Howell
Mrs. Lillie Bobb Hunter
Mr. Edward J. Irick, Jr.
Mrs. Pearl F. Johnson
Mrs. Bessie Jerry Keels
Mrs. Emma R. Crosby Kershaw
Mrs. Mildred M. Knightner
Mrs. Cheryl Frazier Leysath
Mr. Elton McCray
Mr. Melvin Miller
Mrs. Sophia E. Miller
Mrs. Patsy Mungin Polite
Mr. W. Curtis Pressley
Mrs. Janie Carter Pringle
Mr. Edward W. Robinson
Mrs. Doris M. Ruff
Dr. Alexander Russell, Jr.
Ms. Diann Selph
Ms. Celestine O'berry Shaheed-Ali
Mrs. Linda Stringer Smith
Dr. Patricia A. Smith
Mr. Roosevelt Smith

Mrs. Sandra D. Smith
Mr. Fred J. Thomas
Mrs. Pearl B. Thomas
Rev. William Wallace Thompson
Mr. Edsel C. Webb, Jr.
Rev. Arnold Williams
Ms. Patricia Evans Williams
Mr. Ralph J. Wilson

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis:

A Salute to the Half-Century Club Inductees:

Your induction into the Half-Century Club represents fifty years of loyal and dedicated service to Benedict College. You have rewarded us with your support, taught us through your examples, and inspired us with your accomplishments. You have provided us with an outstanding, enduring, and believable history that you wrote right before our eyes. We behold and celebrate you and your achievements that have brought you to this place, at this time. Membership in the Half-Century Club represents your commitment to this institution and demonstrates that you represent #TheBEST of BC.

I now hereby declare each of you to be official full-fledged members of the Benedict College Half-Century Club with all the rights, honors, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining. Welcome to the Club!
Congratulations.

Let us show our appreciation to the new Half-Century inductees by giving them an enthusiastic Benedict College round of applause.

13. The Recognition of Former Inductees

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis: We are pleased to recognize former inductees into the Half-Century Club. Please stand and be recognized as your names and graduation classes are called.

Class of 1973- Celebrating 51 Years of Service

Rev. Dr. Leon D. Dizzley
Mr. Michael R. Jacobs
Mrs. Alma Mills

Class of 1971- Celebrating 53 Years of Service

Ms. Julia Kathleen Ford Bell
Mrs. Cedelle English Gates
Mr. Walter L. Good
Dr. Malqueen Howell Richardson

Class of 1969- Celebrating 55 Years of Service

Mrs. Bernetha Phillips Henry
Mrs. Marilyn W. Irick

Class of 1968- Celebrating 56 Years of Service

Mrs. Doris J. Andrews
Mrs. Geraldine S. Parker
Ms. Beverly Washington

Class of 1966- Celebrating 58 Years of Service

Mrs. Naomi Woodson Scipio

Class of 1965- Celebrating 59 Years of Service

Ms. Louise Entzminger

Class of 1963- Celebrating 61 Years of Service

Mrs. Marlene Murphy McClerklin

Class of 1962- Celebrating 62 Years of Service

Ms. Maxine Peterson Pearson

**Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis: A Salute to the Previous Half-Century Club
Inductees:**

You have excelled in multiple careers and endeavors across America and abroad. You are the beneficiaries of the quality education that changes the lives of Benedict College alumni, who in turn change the lives of citizens in their communities. You have freely given of your time, resources, energy, and support to the College and continue to carry what you learned at this great institution in your minds; but more importantly, you continue to carry the legacy of Benedict College in your hearts. You continue to be #TheBESTofBC.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us give enthusiastic applause to these outstanding previous Half-Century Club inductees.

Have we omitted any persons here today who are members of the Half-

Century Club?

Thank you very much.

14. The Reading of The Founder's Day Litany

Mrs. Emmie Davis
Instructor of English

Mrs. Emmie Davis: Will the audience please stand and read the applicable portion of the Founder's Day Litany as printed in the convocation program?

Mrs. Emmie Davis reads the Founder's Day Litany.

15. The Acknowledgments and Announcements

Mrs. Leandra Hayes-Burgess
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Let us show our appreciation to all Half-Century Club honorees recognized today by giving them enthusiastic applause.

Will the spouses, relatives, and friends of the Half-Century Club inductees recognized today, please stand, and receive our warmest thanks and applause?

Let us show our appreciation to all the previously inducted Half-Century Club inductees recognized today by giving them enthusiastic applause.

Will the spouses, relatives, and friends of previously inducted Half-Century Club inductees, please stand and be recognized?

At this time, we acknowledge with appreciation our special guest partners of our BEST Lives Program. This program provides a Second Chance for specific segments of the population and is headed by its director, Dr. Vanessa Harris. We welcome our guests and ask that you please stand as your names are called.

Mr. Jay Holder, Mr. Patrick Rodriguez, Mr. Lester Young, Warden Kenneth Nelson, Warden Tonya James, Ms. Jaquila Green, Ms. Aletra Jones, Ms. Kali Williamson, Dr. Cynthia Cash-Green, and Dr. Delores Decosta.

V.P. Burgess: Thank you for your attendance and your partnership with Benedict College. You may be seated.

We acknowledge the following persons; please stand to be recognized.

Members of the Benedict College Board of Trustees-Trustees Cedelle Gates and Dorothy BuckhananWilson

President Roslyn Clark Artis, members, and guests of the Artis family
The President's Cabinet

Our Outstanding Keynote Speaker-Attorney James White, III
Members of the College Convocations, Assemblies, and Special Events Committee

Governmental Officials: Local, state, and federal (**only if they are present**)

Alumni, Friends of the College, and Church Constituency
Faculty, Staff, and Retired Faculty and Staff

Mister and Miss Benedict College and their Royal Courts
Student Government Association President Tarondi
Betha and other Student Government Association leaders

The Pre-Law Club

Student Athletes

Representatives of the Benedict College Student
Organizations and Clubs (*PAUSE*)

The Freshman Class students enrolled in the College
Experience and Career Pathways Development classes
Special Recognition to the Senior Class and Prospective
Spring 2024 Graduates

Sophomore and Junior classes

The College expresses appreciation to the President's Office,
Division of Institutional Advancement, College Facilities, Campus
Print Shop, Offices of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs,
Student Success Center, the Information Technology Department,
ushers, marshals, and many, many, others too numerous to mention
here. Please know that the services that you provided for this
convocation are deeply appreciated.

Announcements

Today's Half-Century inductees, former inductees, and their guests

are invited to attend a reception in the Swinton Campus Center immediately following the convocation.

The Founder's Day Rally will be held March 16, 2024, in the Swinton Campus Center.

The Women's History Month Programs:

I Support My Sisters, PERIOD-March 16, 1:00 pm, Swinton Campus Center Student Lounge

Women in Worship-March 17, 4:00 pm-Antisdel Chapel

The HBCU Sisterhood: Testimonies of Triumph and Transformation, March 20, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.- Antisdel Chapel

In Her Footsteps Luncheon, March 21, 11:00 am- Swinton Campus Center

Rededication and Naming of the Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building-March 22-11:00 am- Administration Building

Stilettos for Scholars Scholarship Gala, March 22, 7:00 pm

Classes will resume at **2:30 or 4:00 p.m. (Check with Dr. Artis).**

Thank you very much.

16. Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis:

Will the Marshals and Mace Bearer please assume your positions to lead the recession? *(Pause)*

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand and join the Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble and Choir as they sing and play our Alma Mater. The words are printed in the Convocation program. Please remain standing for the benediction and recession.

Except for those in the recession, the audience is asked to be seated until the ushers dismiss you.

The Half-Century Club inductees are also asked to be seated after the benediction until the ushers escort you to the front of the Chapel.

17. The Benediction

Student Minister Cameron Seawright gives the benediction.

The Chief Marshal moves to the podium and signals the Instrumental Ensemble to play music for the recession. The Chief Marshal leads the recession.

21. The Academic Recession: *Pomp and Circumstance*

- A. Chief Marshal- Dr. Tracy Dunn**
- B. The College Mace-Dr. Victor Oyinbo**
- C. President Roslyn Clark Artis**
- D. Platform Party**
- E. The President's Cabinet**
- F. Faculty/Staff**

22. Postlude: *I'm So Glad*

Arranged by Mr. Ronald Green

Benedict College Instrumental Ensemble

Thank you for participating in the 2024 Founder's Day Convocation at Benedict College.

3.12.2024- FINAL