

THE BURROUGHS BUSINESS



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Greetings, Burroughs Family.

I want to express my enthusiasm for the work that is being done in our school. The hard work of the faculty and the students in our classrooms in pursuit of excellence is being realized every day. This issue is filled with stories recounting their successes. The semester ahead is full of possibilities as we celebrate the 36th Annual Business Week and look forward to the spring schedule for the Palmer's Executive Speaker Series to inspire us all.

We are so grateful to our supporters in the community, especially our Burroughs Advisory Board. Our board members have gone above and beyond, hosting employer information sessions, supporting the Palmer's Executive Speaker Series (which was established by a board member in conjunction with the Burroughs Foundation), and generous monetary donations. The commitment of our board members and the commitment of their organizations are greatly appreciated.

Onward and upward!

Tracy Harrell Dunn

Your Dean

STUDENT NEWS

The Benedict College Student Government Association (SGA) 2023 – 2024 Office Holders

A warm congratulations to these roaring Tigers who showcased their definition of being #TheBESTofBC! These students participated in an on-campus election and were sworn into the Student Government Association at the Fall 2023 Convocation Ceremony.

Pictured above (from L – R) are: Mr. Tarondi Bethea, President; Ms. Rashonda Rhoades, Vice President; Mr. Navaud Guscott, Business Manager; Ms. Makyiah Hails, Recording Secretary; and Ms. Autumn Tisdale, Corresponding Secretary



President Bethea is a senior finance major from Florence, South Carolina, and Business Manager Guscott is a sophomore finance major from Portland, Jamaica.

National Black MBA Association, Inc – 2023 HBCU Scholars



Ms. Shafali Giles
(’22, Criminal Justice)
MBA, Class of 2024



Ms. India Washington
(’22, English)
MBA, Class of 2024



DaVente Pondexter
(’14, Biology)
MBA, Class of 2024

Three students in the Benedict College Master of Business Administration program, Ms. Shafali Giles, Ms. India Washington, and Mr. DaVente Pondexter were selected to participate in the 2023–2024 National Black MBA Association, Inc (NBMBA) HBCU Scholar Cohort. All three were honored as NBMBA HBCU Cohort Scholars and received benefits such as complimentary membership to NBMBA, registration for the NBMBA’s 45th Annual Conference in Philadelphia, access to extensive professional development, the chance to interview for internships/full-time roles, and the opportunity to build valuable connections with the NBMBA’s diverse community of professionals.

To be eligible for this honor, students had to have at least a 3.0 GPA, a strong resume, and good interpersonal skills.

CREF Careers Student Fellowship Program

Allysha Fischbacher, a senior finance major from Freeport, The Bahamas was selected as a 2023 CREF Careers Student Fellow. This Fellowship program is tailored for students interested in exploring career opportunities within the commercial real estate finance industry.

CREF Career Student Fellows must be a current college student to apply. Students accepted into the program attend monthly virtual seminars and receive the following benefits:

- Career coaching from HR professionals at leading commercial real estate firms
- Mentorship opportunities with top commercial real estate finance professionals
- Attendance at MBA's 2024 Commercial Real Estate Finance (CREF) Convention, and
- An Apple iPad.

This year's convention was held in San Diego and is recognized as the largest gathering of CREF professionals in the nation. CREF Career Student Fellows receive a stipend for travel, lodging, and expenses to attend.

Applications for the program open in the spring.

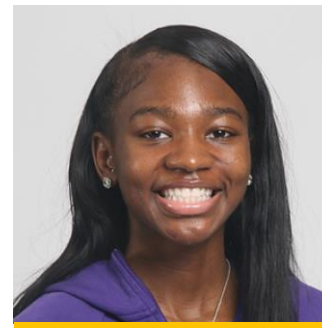


Taylor McNeil

Congratulations to Taylor McNeil, a senior business administration (management) major from Waldorf, Maryland, for being accepted into the Master of Human Resource program at the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina for Fall 2024!



Santiona Freeman



Congratulations to Santiona Freeman, a senior business administration (marketing) major from Union City, Georgia, for accepting a summer internship with ServiceNow.

ServiceNow is a California-based company that offers a cloud-based workflow automation platform that helps businesses and organizations streamline work processes. The company is also a strategic partner for the College and aims to equip traditionally underrepresented students with the digital skills needed in today's workforce.

2023 – 2024 Burroughs Scholars List

The 2023 – 2024 Burroughs Scholars have been selected. In addition to the three returning scholars, the Burroughs Foundation added five more dynamic scholars to the program. The returning scholars are Briana Curney, a senior business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Atlanta, Georgia; Maya Scriven, a senior business administration (management) major from Columbia, South Carolina; and Ayanna Bell, a senior business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Fort Washington, Maryland.

The new scholars are Navaud Guscott, a sophomore finance major from Portland, Jamaica; LaQuon Gibson, a sophomore business administration major from Freeport, The Bahamas; Monelle Sherwood, a sophomore business administration (marketing) major from

Portland, Jamaica; Leah Brock, a sophomore business administration (marketing) major from New Orleans, Louisiana; and Asia Cooper, a sophomore business administration (marketing) major from Lancaster, South Carolina.

KPMG Hires Two Benedict College Students



Wenty Bonaby

Wenty Bonaby and Randall Curry, two students from the Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship, have interviewed and secured positions at KPMG.

Curry is a graduate student in the Benedict College MBA program from Upper Marlboro, Maryland. He interned with KPMG during the Summer of 2023 and accepted a full-time position as an Audit Associate in Washington, DC starting in 2024.

Bonaby is a sophomore accounting major from Exuma, The Bahamas. He will be a 2024 Summer Tax Intern in Houston, Texas.



Randall Curry

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING

2023 National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. Regional Conference



2023 Regional LINK Conference AGENDA
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis * October 15-17, 2023

Several Burroughs students, accompanied by two faculty members from the Business School, Dr. Tracy Washington and Professor Anissa Truesdale, participated in the 2023 National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Conference held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Among the attendees were Marcus Anderson, a junior accounting major from Columbia, South Carolina; Ayanna Bell, a senior business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Fort Washington, Maryland; Allysha Fischbacher, a senior

finance major from Freeport, The Bahamas; Clint Forbes, a senior finance major from Nassau, The Bahamas; Navaud Guscott, a sophomore finance major from Portland, Jamaica; Janii Cooper, a sophomore business administration (entrepreneurship) major from The Bahamas; and Terranique Josey, a senior finance major from Nassau, The Bahamas.

During the conference, the students actively participated in panel discussions and educational workshops, gaining valuable insights into career advancement strategies and drawing inspiration from distinguished keynote speakers to guide them along their professional journeys.

Congratulations to our 2023 – 2024 President’s Fellows!

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina proudly announced the new 2023 – 2024 cohort of President’s Fellows, three of which are Benedict College students.

The President’s Fellows Program is a twelve-month fellowship that explores all aspects of philanthropy.

The 2023 – 2024 President’s Fellows are:

- **LaQuon Gibson, Benedict College**
- **Navaud Guscott, Benedict College**
- **Joel Rezil, Benedict College**
- **Jaygues Nelson, Claflin University**
- **Dwight Priest, Jr., Claflin University**
- **Tariq Singletary, Claflin University**
- **Kashif Alston, South Carolina State University**

Gibson is a sophomore business administration major from Freeport, The Bahamas. Guscott is a sophomore finance major from Portland, Jamaica, and Rezil is a sophomore business administration (management) major from Jacmel, Haiti.

The President’s Fellows Program was launched in 2015 as a year-long fellowship aimed at addressing the lack of diversity in nonprofit leadership, particularly within the philanthropic sector. Statistics reveal a stark underrepresentation of people of color in executive roles, with only 27 percent comprising full-time foundation staff and a mere 10 percent holding CEO positions. Of this demographic, male executive directors of color are notably the most underrepresented in nonprofit organizations, with African Americans making up only 9 percent of executive leaders, of which less than half are male.

Donna Long Waites, President of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, commends the caliber of individuals recruited each year, underscoring the remarkable talent within the partnered schools. She expresses excitement for the program’s role in nurturing the next generation of leadership.

HBCU representatives laud the fellowship for its educational and leadership opportunities, particularly its focus on addressing the disparity of African American males in nonprofit leadership. Chynna A. Phillips, Senior Director of Policy and Research at the Sisters of Charity Foundation, notes the program’s evolution driven by student engagement and partner input, with this year promising a diverse array of perspectives from leaders in the field.



Funding partnerships with entities such as the African American Philanthropy Initiative Fund of Central Carolina Community Foundation, Coastal Community Foundation, South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, and The Duke Endowment make this transformative program possible.

The President’s Fellows program is currently offered to male students from Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, and South Carolina State University, providing them comprehensive exposure to all facets

of philanthropy through two tracks: the service-learning track and the issue-based track, each requiring varying degrees of research and volunteer commitments.

HBCU Career Development Marketplace



Benedict College made its debut appearance at the HBCU Career Development Marketplace from November 12–15, 2023, held at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, Maryland.

This was a three-day event that offered attendees career development and networking opportunities, boasting participation from over 100 companies, more than 40 HBCUs, and over 400 HBCU students. The following students represented Benedict College:

- Ayanna Bell, a senior business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Fort Washington, Maryland
- Nadia Gordon, a senior business administration (marketing) majors for Lithonia, Georgia,
- Marie Butterfield, a sophomore finance major from Freeport, The Bahamas, and
- Clint Forbes, a senior finance major from Nassau, The Bahamas.
- Briana Curney, a senior business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Atlanta, Georgia

SENIOR CAPSTONE COURSE

The Senior Capstone course adopted a project with Wolters Kluwer during the fall 2023 semester. Wolters Kluwer is a global provider of professional information, software solutions, and services for clinicians, accountants, lawyers, and tax, finance, audit, risk, compliance, and regulatory sectors.

Completing a consulting project is a major component for Senior Capstone. Prof. Michele Dugar served as the faculty advisor.

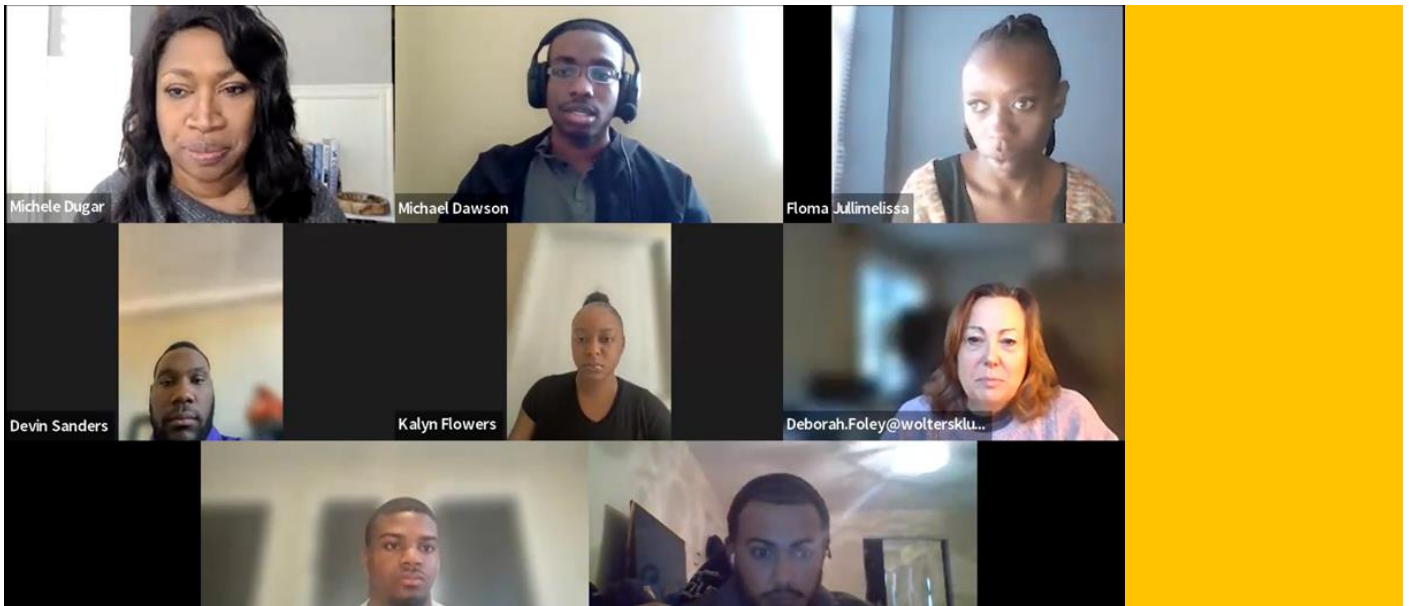
During the Fall 2023 semester, seniors from the Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship had the opportunity to engage directly with leadership

from Wolters Kluwer and provide the conglomerate with consulting services through the school's BC Innovation Hub, a student consulting agency.

The BC Innovation HUB was developed with the dual-purpose of cultivating workforce readiness within our students while leveraging their academic knowledge and creativity to enhance the community. Through the BC Innovation HUB, students connect with real-world business challenges and develop innovative solutions through pro-bono or low cost collaboration.

For Wolters Kluwer, the students engaged in a Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) expansion project. Wolters Kluwer, a global provider of professional information and software solutions with annual revenues over \$5 billion, serves customers in over 180 countries and maintains operations in over 40 countries. After multiple virtual meetings with Wolters Kluwer, our student teams applied design thinking tactics to identify multiple strategies and tactics designed to address the company's DEI challenges and goals.

Students cited that they enjoyed the opportunity to go beyond theory and engage directly with a real-world dilemma. The client also expressed positive sentiment. Deb Foley, Wolters Kluwer's Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Director, made the following comment to the students in response to the BC Innovation Hub's presentation: "You guys did an amazing job. So, thank you. I took copious notes. Great recommendations – well thought out, well articulated. I'm seriously blown away."



The students were provided with the following project prompt:

At Wolters Kluwer, you'll be part of a growing, diverse, and dynamic global technology company that makes a difference. You'll work with innovators, collaborators, and creators of a high-performance culture in a diverse, caring, and inclusive environment where you'll have a strong sense of belonging. Your ideas are respected, your opinions count. Wolters Kluwer is a 185-year-old global provider of professional information, software solutions, and services for clinicians, accountants, lawyers, and tax, finance, audit, risk, compliance, and regulatory sectors. For this project, you will work with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging team on one of four areas. Your class will review the project ideas and create a proposal on which project they select as well as the anticipated deliverables, and

Potential Projects to include:

1. Diversity Recruitment Partnership Plan:

- Research competitor best practices (list of competitors will be provided)
- Present a diversity recruitment plan outlining the different partnership opportunities, the activities/options as well as the proposed budget

2. Diversity Recruitment Metrics:

- Research competitor best practices (provide a list of competitors)
- Identify the key metrics to measure as well as benchmark targets
- Create scorecards that recruiters can use to track and measure progress

- Other data will include what we are currently tracking (our dashboards and talent acquisition reports)
- 3. Recruitment Tools/Tool Kit:**
- Create step by step guide/tools on “selling Wolters Kluwer” by leveraging our newly created CxP – Colleague Experience Promise (similar to an EVP – Employee Value Proposition)
 - Create interview guides and tools
 - Additional data on the new CxP will be provided as well as other tools that have been used in the past
- 4. Hiring Manager Training:**
- Research various hiring manager trainings that are used by our competitors and make a recommendation on which is the best training solution based on our culture and organizational readiness.

In a team of 3-5 students, each group delivered a final presentation with their recommendations, citing specific references. The presentation was based on research of industry best practices including what has worked/not worked for other organizations.

Recommendations

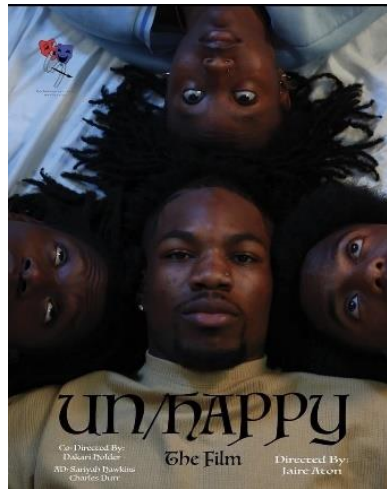
For the development of recommendations, students used Benedict’s library and online resources to research and develop their deliverables.

Starting A Startup: B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab

The 3rd Annual Entrepreneurship Week has left a significant mark! A big congratulations to Nate Harden, a senior mass communication major, and his exceptionally talented team for the successful screening of UN/HAPPY at the Boyd Innovation Center. The event was sold out.

The Innovation Lab offers programming that supports creatives as well as inventors and entrepreneurs. During Entrepreneurship Week, the B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab featured, student entrepreneur - Leah Brock, a sophomore business administration (marketing) major from New Orleans, Louisiana. Below is an excerpt from the spotlight.

Leah Brock is on a mission to become an entrepreneur. With a business major an marketing minor, Leah has always been



*Nathan Harden
Boyd Innovation Center Intern*

interested in owning her own business. She draws inspiration from her aunt, who owns a mental health clinic and has full control of her business.

"My aunt is my biggest inspiration," says Leah. "I admire how she makes her own schedule, pays her employees, and has full control of her business. That's what I want for myself."

Currently, Leah is working as a brand ambassador for multiple brands, promoting and modeling for lashes, clothing, and hair. She's very influential, and her image is critical to her success.

"I've gotten my LLC over the summer," Leah says. "Being an entrepreneur takes a lot of responsibility and is a lot of pressure, which is good for me because I can work well under pressure."

Leah is a perfectionist and believes that being an entrepreneur allows her to do things her way. She plans to have her own high-end perfume brand that is luxurious, expensive, and great quality.

"I take my image seriously, and I want to have a brand that reflects that," she says. "My dream is to have my own high-end perfume brand that is luxurious, expensive, and great quality. I want people to know that when they wear my perfume, they're wearing the best."

The B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab at Benedict College has been a valuable resource for Leah in her entrepreneurial journey. The Lab provides workshops, mentorship, access to resources, and it's a great place to connect with like-minded individuals and learn about the various aspects of starting a business.

"Without the B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab, I wouldn't have known where to start," Leah says. "It's been a great resource for me, and I'm excited to see what the future holds."

Brock's journey has only just begun, yet her unwavering passion for entrepreneurship and dedication to her vision are truly inspiring. Benedict College's B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab stands as a testament to the positive and exciting momentum the College has in fostering entrepreneurship. With students like Brock actively engaged and motivated, the program offers a promising platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to seize opportunities and pursue their dreams.

HBCUFI Demo Day & Pitch Competition Details

Founders from Benedict College along with the following HBCUs participated in the virtual demo day. The pitch competition is the culmination of the 8-week pre-accelerator program.

- [Oakwood University](#)
- [Prairie View A&M University](#)
- [Elizabeth City State University](#)
- [Bethune-Cookman University](#)
- [Bowie State University](#)

The [HBCU Founders Initiative](#) (HBCUFI) is a nonprofit organization that supports HBCU students and alumni along their entrepreneurial journey. Its [Pre-Accelerator program](#) is intended to provide specialized support to students and alumni exploring entrepreneurship and the launch of tech-fueled ventures across HBCU campuses.

Over 750 students and alumni from 80+ HBCUs have benefitted from HBCUFI's programming with participants raising over \$2M for their startups. Benedict College became 1 of 5 HBCUs added to the program in 2023.

Benedict College Visits Synovus Bank



In October 2023, a group of five students visited the Synovus Bank with faculty members Dr. Tracy Washington and Dr. Melvin Miller. Participants included Roxi-Ann Williams, a sophomore finance major from Portland, Jamaica; Clint Forbes, a senior finance major from Nassau, The Bahamas; Santasha Johnson, a senior finance major from Schenectady, New York; Javarius Wilson, a senior business administration major from Clarksville, Tennessee; and Tarondi Bathea, a senior finance major and SGA president from Florence, South Carolina.

The Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) – Money 4 Life Leadership Summit



In Fall 2023, the Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) organization journeyed to Charlotte, North Carolina, where partner HBCUs convened for a three-day leadership summit. Benedict College students seized the opportunity to participate in diverse discussion panels, fostering connections with fellow HBCU institutions within the CFA network.

Accompanied by Dr. Tracy Washington, faculty liaison for Benedict College, and Professor Anissa Truesdale from the Tyrone Adams Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship, students immersed themselves in enriching experiences.

Throughout the summit, students gleaned invaluable insights and motivation from esteemed speakers, while also exploring internship opportunities for Summer 2024. Representatives from prominent entities such as Experian, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and others actively engaged with attendees, offering both internship and networking opportunities.



The Money 4 Life Leadership Summit left a significant impact on our students. This summit fostered long-lasting relationships, and essential lessons such as credit management, investing management, and wealth building were taught to our students, aiming for a bigger and brighter future for them.



Dr. Tracy Washington was recognized as the Best Campus Liaison at the Money 4 Life Leadership Summit. Her outstanding work and dedication to her students and the organization itself left the Benedict College members of CFA proud to congratulate her for representing #TheBESTofBC.

Savannah River Site Tour

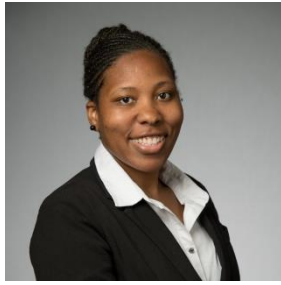
A few of our Benedict College faculty members, including Dr. Victor Oyinbo, Dr. Iva Walters, Professor Anissa Truesdale, and Dr. Raymond Lee accompanied graduate students from the Benedict College MBA program for a tour of the Savannah River Site.



ALUMNI



Ravee Johnson



Denera McCullough

Two Benedict alumni, **Ravee Johnson** ('09, business administration - marketing) and **Denera McCullough** ('10, accounting) returned to campus to share their experiences as employees at PwC. They also shared internship opportunities, interviewing tips and strategies, and established a rapport with the students they engaged with, showcasing the cultivation of family here at Tiger Nation.



Floma Okumu ('23, finance) has accepted an internship as a financial analyst at Trane and plans to join the company full-time.

BURROUGHS FACULTY & STAFF



Dr. Chantil Wright-Galloway

Dr. Chantil Wright-Galloway currently serves as an assistant professor in the Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship, bringing over 30 years of corporate experience in Business Management, Healthcare Management, and Operations Management. Additionally, she is the CEO of her own business, KMBC.

Dr. Wright-Galloway holds an Associate Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (Purdue University), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Management, a Master of Business Administration (Purdue Global), and a Ph.D. in Business Administration-HealthCare Administration (North Central University).

With a background spanning clinical and administrative realms of healthcare, Dr. Wright-Galloway is a retired Army Combat Veteran. Originally from Sacramento, California, she is married with four children and has familial roots in Trinidad and Tobago.

In her role as an educator, Dr. Galloway employs a teaching philosophy centered on creativity and fostering critical thinking through active engagement. She extends her commitment to student development beyond the classroom, serving as a mentor and advocate for their learning journey.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Dr. Wright-Galloway enjoys basketball and spending time with her family. She is an avid supporter of the San Francisco 49ers, Sacramento Kings, and Golden State Warriors. As a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, she actively engages in community service aligned with the organization's principles.

Dr. Wright-Galloway is currently publishing a manuscript, "The Administration of the Affordable Care Act's Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act: A Qualitative Study."



Dr. Tracy Washington

Dr. Tracy Washington has been recommended as a reviewer for the International Journal of Accounting, Economics, and Finance Perspectives (IJAEPF) by the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines (IAPAD). As a peer reviewer, Dr. Washington will evaluate research submissions, provide feedback on reviewed manuscripts, and make impactful recommendations.

Additionally, Dr. Washington's research manuscript, "Subprime Lending-15 Years Later: An Overview and Suggested Strategies for Reducing Subprime Mortgage Default Rates", was accepted for publication by the International Journal of Accounting, Economics, and Finance Perspectives.

Dr. Raymond Lee

Featured on WIS News 10, Dr. Raymond Lee presented his expert opinion on Wells Fargo's announcement regarding laying off 525 employees by June 30, 2024. Wells Fargo had to lay off about 11,000 workers in Richland County. Lee explained that these layoffs are not new and have been occurring since last year.



Dr. Melvin Miller

Dr. Melvin Miller received an invitation to participate in the annual conference for the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. At the conference, Dr. Miller presented "The Need to Address Limited Access to Capital and Strengthen Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Order to Increase Black New Venture Creation."



Dean Tracy Harrell Dunn

Dr. Tracy Harrell Dunn, dean of the Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship was selected as the 2023–2024 president-elect for the National HBCU Business Dean's Roundtable. The organization's purpose is to provide a forum for deans of HBCU business schools to address opportunities and challenges associated with enhancing business programs and initiatives. The organization also seeks to strengthen and develop strategic partnerships and alliances with corporations, government, and national organizations to provide the essential tools and resources for student success.

In the role of president-elect, Dunn's primary responsibility includes planning the annual Dean's Summit, which will be held in June 2024 on the campus of ETS in Princeton, New Jersey.

Additionally, Dean Dunn is the principal investigator of the recently awarded, first-ever NSF Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) grant. The National Science Foundation awarded \$19.6 million to nearly 50 teams at U.S. institutions of higher education, including teams from historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions and community colleges. Each institution receives up to \$400,000 over three years. Benedict College received the maximum award of \$400,000.

Through this investment, EPIIC awardees will receive support to develop capacity and institutional knowledge to help them build new partnerships, secure future external funding and tap into their regional innovation ecosystems — potentially into [an NSF Regional Innovation Engine \(NSF Engine\)](#) or an Economic Development Administration Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (EDA Tech Hub). NSF also recently released the [next funding opportunity](#) for EPIIC.

"NSF aspires to accelerate the nation's research and innovation enterprise and empower all Americans to participate in the science- and technology-driven workforce," said Erwin Gianchandani, NSF assistant director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). He adds, "EPIIC reinforces NSF's commitment to develop new, inclusive innovation ecosystems by connecting diverse networks of partners to work together to drive the expansion of key technologies — and the technology workforce — in the U.S. and in turn address pressing national, societal and geostrategic challenges."

Launched by the TIP Directorate, EPIIC works with institutions interested in growing external partnerships and building innovation capacity. NSF recognizes that many institutions, including MSIs, small academic institutions and two-year institutions, stand to benefit from additional focused support for the infrastructure and resources needed to grow external partnerships and to tap into innovation ecosystems, including engaging with NSF Engines and EDA Tech Hubs.

"NSF recognizes that institutions with limited research capacities require comprehensive support to become equitable partners in their regional innovation ecosystems," said Thyaga Nandagopal, director of TIP's Division of Innovation and Technology Ecosystems. "This funding aims to set EPIIC awardees on level ground to seek and build lasting partnerships to tap into their innovation potential, and the capacity-building efforts will continue to provide significant innovation partnership opportunities well into the future."



Millicent Lann

Millicent B. Lann joined the Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship as the inaugural program director for the Benedict College Statewide Investment Accelerator.

Lann is a multifaceted leader with extensive experience as a business strategist, entrepreneur, consultant, community activist and philanthropist. She has impacted many lives, businesses, and organizations with her innovative and engaging leadership acumen and style. She is a visionary with a track record of inspiring others to achieve extraordinary results.

She has a track record of successful entrepreneurial experience with her own businesses and nonprofit organizations, which collectively have generated over \$1 million in revenue. In her role as program director, she serves as the operations manager for the accelerator program, overseeing programmatic direction for the accelerator as well as building collaborative and long-term strategic partnerships. Lann holds a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Leadership/Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications degree.

Lann passionately serves as a community activist through other service and community endeavors. She currently holds National and Local Outstanding Service and Leadership Awards, and she continues to hold appointed seats on Executive and Foundation Boards for non-profit organizations the SC York Rite Foundation, the South Carolina Conference NAACP, and a member of the SC Women in Leadership, and ForbesBlk. Lann is also expected to be a part of the 2023-2024 Class of Emerge South Carolina. She is also an active member of the Columbia Metro Chamber of Commerce, and the SC Democratic Party.

Lann is a 31-year member of the National Panhellenic Greek Organization, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated where she holds leadership roles and she participates in the International Service Program, Z-Hope, which provides humanitarian service and civic programs to all communities served. By way of her Masonic Affiliations, Millicent currently serves as the "President" over three of the six Women's Auxiliary Masonic Houses where she is responsible for strategic and operation leadership/management, fundraising, training, recruitment, marketing, and business development.

Lann maintains a healthy work/life balance consisting of her outreach ministry, spending time with family and friends, traveling, and fulfilling her version of the ultimate pursuit of happiness. Her goal is to leave the world, her space, her community, better than it was when she found it. With an ambitious determination to educate, serve, share wisdom, build opportunities, pay it forward, and give back, Millicent Lann is a force to be reckoned with and has a heart with much to share.

She lives in Columbia, South Carolina with her family.

Introducing the Benedict College Statewide Accelerator Program in Partnership with Black @ Labs!

The Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship at Benedict College in partnership with Black@ Labs proudly unveiled its inaugural accelerator program aimed at empowering and uplifting entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds across South Carolina. The program marks a significant milestone in fostering a vibrant and inclusive ecosystem, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with the resources, support, and opportunities needed to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into thriving businesses.



As a startup launchpad, Black@ Labs is committed to identifying the next generation of builders and equipping them with essential resources, both social and financial, to ensure their success. The accelerator program represents a remarkable step forward in achieving these goals and creating a more inclusive entrepreneurial landscape.

“The collaboration with Black@ Labs brings valuable expertise to South Carolina,” noted Dr. Tracy Dunn, Dean of the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and

Entrepreneurship. “We are excited to partner with Black@ Labs as our accelerator vendor. This team of professionals specializes in working with diverse early-stage startups, and its principal founder has roots in South Carolina. Bringing back a talented South Carolinian to the state to share expertise that benefits the state is especially gratifying.”

“We’re excited to announce the launch of our FIRST accelerator program in partnership with Benedict College! We’re committed to empowering and uplifting founders from diverse backgrounds right here in South Carolina. Our mission is crystal clear: to provide the resources, support, and opportunities needed to turn entrepreneurial dreams into thriving businesses,” said Shondra Washington, CEO of Black@ Labs.

In 2022, Benedict College received \$525,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce to help organize, launch, and operate a state-wide investment accelerator program for underrepresented and minority persons who are in the early stages of entrepreneurship in South Carolina. The grant was received through the EDA’s Build to Scale program, which provides annual grants that aim to accelerate technology entrepreneurship by increasing inclusive access to entrepreneurial support and startup capital.

“Benedict College is prepared to become a major contributor to the South Carolina innovation ecosystem through this statewide investment accelerator,” expressed Dr. Dunn. “We believe that our program offers unique benefits for our state, the most important being our focus on diverse entrepreneurs who typically experience greater challenges accessing capital to grow and scale their companies.”

Kim Smith



Congratulations to a member of the inaugural BCSIA Cohort 1, Kim Smith, who was selected for the Liberty Fellowship Class of 2025. Smith is the founder AND CEO, Health Evolve Technologies, LLC

The Fellowship brings together a small group of established leaders with a wide range of thought, professions, geographic locations, and lived experiences. Through a rigorous 18-month process, each Class member will be challenged to understand and embrace their varying perspectives with a growth-oriented mindset.





TYRONE ADAM BURROUGHS
School of Business & Entrepreneurship
BENEDICT COLLEGE