

**NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL POLICY FORUM
HBCU ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION
DEAN/FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
STUDENT BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION
HBCU RECRUITING FAIR**

Westin Atlanta Airport

April 16-19 , 2026

Schedule of Events

PROGRAM DAY 1: Thursday, April 16

07:00 AM	Leadership Team Arrives: College Park Room
08:00 AM	Event Preparations and Setting up all Rooms
9:30:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Arrival of Presidents/Chancellors/Deans/Advisors/ Students Teams/Judges/Sponsors/Speakers/Guests
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration for All: Atrium (2nd Floor)
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Small Business Training and Networking: Candler Room
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	HBCU-EI Advisory Board Meeting: Board Room #7 (2nd Floor)
1:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Equipment Check for Student Teams (15 Minutes Limit) Track 1: ATLANTA ROOMS (I+II+III+IV) Track 2: DOGWOOD + GARDENIA ROOMS Track 3: JASMINE + MAGNOLIA ROOMS
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Practice Rooms: Board Rooms I - VI (Reservation required) Jackson-Hartsfield Room (Reservation required) Candler Room (Reservation required)
5:30 PM	Everyone proceeds to the Grand Ballroom
5:45 PM - 6:15 PM	Mandatory Judges, Students, Faculty, and Deans Briefing: Grand Ballroom
6:15 PM - 7:00 PM	Meet and Greet: Social Conversations with Everyone (Atrium, 2nd Fl.)
7:00 PM -7:15 PM	All attendees take seats in the Grand Ballroom *****Announcements*****
7:15 PM – 9:15 PM	Dinner: Grand Ballroom Introduction: Ms. Shamima Amin, Chief Operating Officer Welcome: General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, US Army, Honorary Chairman Dr. Raktim Sen, Chairman, Leadership Needed Foundation

Greetings from Partners and Sponsors:

Southern Company

National Vision

Greetings from Host Institutions:

Southern University and A&M College

Tuskegee University

Greetings from CEO: Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan

Dinner Served

Dinner Speaker:

Introduction of the Speaker: Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO

Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker

Stephen A. Smith

American TV Personality and Entrepreneur

Live Entertainment: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, TDP and Host University Talents.

9:30 PM - 10:15 PM

Mandatory Leadership Team Briefing: College Park Room

PROGRAM DAY 2: Friday, April 17, 2026

6:30 AM

Leadership Team Arrives at College Park Room

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM

“Power Breakfast for Female Students”: Atlanta Rooms

Moderator: Geraldine Lazarre

Remarks:

Courtney Caldwell, Charlene Fitzpatric, and Cicely Peace-Eduard

Recruiter’s Breakfast: National Vision: Breakfast with Interested Students (Cherokee Room)

PwC: Breakfast with Invited Students (Jasmine + Magnolia)

Southern Company: Breakfast with Invited Students (Dogwood + Gardenia)

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM

Breakfast for Deans & Faculty (Fayetteville + Riverdale Rooms)

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM

Breakfast for Presidents/Chancellors: Peachtree City Room

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM

Breakfast for Judges/Sponsors/Speakers: Peachtree City Room)

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM

Judges and Team Registration: Atrium (2nd Floor)

7:55 AM

All attendees proceed to the Grand Ballroom.

8:10 AM – 8:25 AM

Very Important General Briefing for Judges, Presidents/Chancellors, Deans, Faculty Members and Students.

Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO

General Larry Ellis, Chief Judge

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

**Introduction of the Speaker: General(R) Larry Ellis.
Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker:**

Chris Womack

Chairman and CEO, Southern Company

Special Presentation by Dr. Bhuiyan and General Ellis.

9:15 AM

All presidents/chancellors, deans, and Advisors proceed to
Hartsfield -Jackson Room

9:15 AM

All Judges proceed to their assigned Track Rooms

9:15 AM

All Students go to their Track Areas and Practice Rooms

9:15 AM

All Deans and Faculty members proceed to any Track Room

9:15 AM

Exhibit Booths Open (will remain open daily until 5:00 PM)

9:15 AM

Team Practice Presentations: Hartsfield Jackson Amphitheatre (All Day)

9:15 AM

Small Business Registration: Candler (Rounds of 8)

9:25 AM

All Judges and the First Team are Called In

9:30 AM

Competition Begins (15 Min–Presentation &15 Min.-Q&A)

Friday, April 17

Track 1: ATLANTA ROOMS I+II+III+IV

9:30 AM	Florida A&M University
10:10 AM	Norfolk State University
10:45 AM	Kentucky State University
11:20 AM	Southern University and A&M Col.

Friday, April 17

Track 2: DOGWOOD + GARDENIA ROOMS

9:30 AM	Benedict College
10:10 AM	Fayetteville State University
10:45 AM	Bowie State University
11:20 AM	Elezabeth City State University

Friday, April 17

Track 3: JASMINE + MAGNOLIA ROOMS

9:30 AM	Grambling State University
10:10 AM	Tuskegee University
10:45 AM	Lincoln University - PA
11:20 AM	Mississippi Valey State University

11:30 AM

All Participants Proceed to the Grand Ballroom

11:30 AM – 12:50 PM

Special Friday Luncheon

Introduction of the Speaker: Mohammad Bhuiyan, Ph.D.

Friday Luncheon Keynote Speaker:

Charlotte Farmer

Chief Operating Officer, UL Research

Special Presentation by Dr. Bhuiyan and General Ellis

12:50 PM

All Judges and Students Report Back to their Respective Tracks

Friday, April 17

Track 1: ATLANTA ROOMS I+II+III+IV

1:00 PM	Xavier University
1:35 PM	Johnson C. Smith University
2:10 PM	Alabama State University

Friday, April 17

Track 2: DOGWOOD + GARDENIA ROOMS

1:00 PM	Hampton University
1:35 PM	Lincoln University – MO
2:10 PM	Morgan State University

Friday, April 17

Track 3: JASMINE + MAGNOLIA ROOMS

1:00 PM	Medgar Evers College
1:35 PM	North Carolina A&T University
2:10 PM	Texas Southern University

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Job Interviews (Invited Students Only):

Board Room I Board Room II Board Room III

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Special Sessions for Presidents/Chancellors and Deans

Hartsfield -Jackson Room

Moderators: Dr. Bhuiyan and General Ellis.

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Developing Entrepreneurial Mindset

Doug Kaufman, Professor, Duke University.

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Entrepreneurship and Adversity: Special Focus on “Incarceration or Homelessness”

Mike Morris, Professor and Director, University of Notre Dame

2:55 PM

All Judges and Students Report Back to their Respective Tracks

Friday, April 17

Track 1: ATLANTA ROOMS I+II+III+IV

3:00 PM	Alcorn State University
3:35 PM	Dillard University
4:10 PM	Central State University

Friday, April 17

Track 2: DOGWOOD + GARDENIA ROOMS

3:00 PM	Savannah State University
3:35 PM	South Carolina State University
4:10 PM	Albany State University

Friday, April 17

Track 3: JASMINE + MAGNOLIA ROOMS

3:00 PM	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
3:35 PM	Tennessee State University
4:10 PM	University of Maryland ES

- 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM** Ice Cream Break - Foyer (2nd Floor)
- 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM** Southern Company: Special AI Presentation at Hartsfield-Jackson Amphitheater
- 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM** The PhD Project Perspective for HBCUs: Alfonzo Alexander, CEO, The Ph.D. Project, Chancellor John Pierre, and Dean Donlad Andrews.
- 5:00 PM – 5:25 PM** Judges Deliberate
- 5:25 PM** All Proceed to the Main Lobby to Board Buses
- 5:30 PM** Busses will Leave for Friday Dinner in Downtown
- 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM** Reception and Dinner for All: Rooftop Location
Hosted by: Tuskegee University
- 7:15 PM – 9:30 PM** Introduction of the Speaker: Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO
Dinner Keynote Speaker:
Stephen L. Hightower
President and CEO of Hightowers Petroleum Co.
- Dinner and Announcement of 6 First Round Winners**
Live Entertainment: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, TDP and Tuskegee University Talents.
- 9:00 PM** Buses will Leave for Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel
- 10:00 PM** Mandatory Leadership Team Briefing: College Park Room

PROGRAM DAY 3: Saturday April 18, 2026

- 6:45 AM** Volunteer Leadership Team Arrives at College Park Room (2nd Floor)
- 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM** Registration: Atrium (2nd Floor)
- 7:00 AM – 8:15 AM** **"Power Breakfast for Women"**
JASMINE + MAGNOLIA ROOMS (Women only)
Moderator: Jean Ellis
Remarks:
1. **Andrella Kenner**, Founder and CEO of CI2 Aviation Inc.
2. **Deborah Beverly-Pugh**, President and CEO, Shepherd Gates Entertainment.
3. **LeMonica Hakeem**, President and CEO, Conekt Hospitality
- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM** Breakfast Meeting with Recruiter(Selected Students): Cherokee Room
- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM** **"Power Breakfast for Men": Atlanta Rooms (I,II,III,IV)**
Moderator: Kendrick Faison, M.S. GSci, President/CEO at SpatialGIS
Remarks:
1. **George Joseph, Jr.**, President and CEO, Elite Construction Services Inc.

2. Alex Moore, Senior Partner, Stratagon Higher Ed.
3. Marlon Gray, Empower U

7:00 AM – 7:50 AM	Presidential Breakfast: Peachtree City Room (Presidents/Chancellors, Speakers, Judges, Sponsors)
7:00 AM – 7:50 AM	Breakfast for Deans: Fayetteville + Riverdale Rooms
7:50 AM	All Presidents/Chancellors and Deans proceeding to Hartsfield -Jackson
8:00 AM – 11:15 AM	National Policy Forum Special Sessions: Hartsfield -Jackson Room Introduction: Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO. Greetings: General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, US Army, Honorary Chairman.
8:05 AM – 9:05 AM	Managing Private Universities Under Difficult Conditions
9:05 – 9:15 AM	Food Safety and HBCUs: Presentation by Thompson Hospitality
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	"Laser Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Training Institute": Workforce Development Possibilities.
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Future of Accreditation: SACSCOC and HBCUs Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, SACSCOC
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Managing Public Universities Under Difficult Conditions
11:15 AM	ALL PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS PLEASE PROCEED TO CANDLER ROOM (LOBBY LEVEL) FOR VIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM	Presidential VIP Luncheon: Candler Room
8:20 AM	Finalist Teams and Final Round Judges Register: Atlanta Rooms.
8:20 AM	All Judges and Students Move to Feedback Rooms
8:30 AM – 11:15 AM	First Round Teams: Feedback from Judges (15 Minutes per Team: See the Schedule at the Registration Desk) Track 1: Cherokee Room (2 nd Floor) Track 2: Dogwood + Gardenia Rooms (2 nd Floor) Track 3: Jasmine + Magnolia Rooms (2 nd Floor) Each Team (& Advisor) gets 15 Minutes with Their Judges
Saturday, April 18	Final Round Business Plan Competition: Atlanta Rooms I+II+III+IV
9:15 AM	General Briefing: Final Round Judges and Finalists Teams (students, advisors, and deans must attend) Chief Judge: General (Ret.) Larry Ellis and Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO, NPF, HBCU-EI
9:30 AM	Final Round Begins: Atlanta Rooms I+II+III+IV
9:30 AM	Second Place Winner from Track 1

10:00 AM–4:00 PM	Scheduled for Interviews for Selected Students
10:10 AM	Second Place Winner from Track 2
10:50 AM	Second Place Winner from Track 3
11:20 AM	ALL SPEAKERS, PRESIDENTS, CHANCELLORS, JUDGES, AND SPONSORS, DEANS, AND SPECIAL GUESTS PLEASE PROCEED TO --CANDLER ROOM (LOBBY LEVEL) FOR VIP LUNCHEON
11:30 AM	Presidential VIP Luncheon: Candler Room
11:45 AM	Introduction of Honorary Chairman
11:47 AM	<i>WELCOME</i> General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, US Army, Honorary Chairman
11 :52	<i>INVOCATION</i>
11:53 AM	Lunch Served
12:15 AM	<i>INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER</i> Mohammad Bhuiyan, Ph.D., CEO
12:18 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Cecilia Conrad Founder and CEO of Lever for Change
12:50 AM	ALL SPEAKERS, PRESIDENTS, CHANCELLORS, JUDGES, SPONSORS, AND OTHERS PLEASE PROCEED TO ATLANTA ROOMS (2 nd Floor)
1:00 PM	Presentation by the First Place Winner from Track 1 or 11 or III
1:35 PM	Everyone except Students Please Proceed to Hartsfield Jackson Room.
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	PwC Special Session for Students who did not go to the Final Round (Jasmine + Magnolia)
1:40 PM	National Presidential Policy Forum Participants Take Designated Seats
1:45 PM–5:15 PM	National Presidential Policy Forum (For full program details, please refer to the National Presidential Policy Forum or Deans Development Seminar books.
1:45 PM – 2:40 PM	PART-I: Future of Workforce Development at HBCU and Athletics
2:45 PM – 3:40 PM	PART-II: Different Kinds of Threats for HBCU Campuses
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Southern Company’s Leadership Presentation for Students: Jesmine + Magnolia Rooms (2 nd Floor)
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Interviews for Selected Student: Cherokee Room (2 nd Floor)
2:00 PM	First Place Winner from Track 1 or 11 or III
2:40 PM	First Place Winner from Track 1 or 11 or III
3:20 PM	Further Questioning Finalists (if necessary) / Judges Deliberate
3:30 PM	Ice Cream Break: Atrium (2 nd Floor)

3:50 PM – 5:15 PM **PART-III: Special AI Panel from Industry and Others**
Moderator: Dr. Andrei Lopatenko, VP of AI, Govini
Dr. Khalifeh Aljadda, Director of AI, Google
Dr. Shawn Blanton, Nancy Keithley Professor,
Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Co-Director, AI Initiative at the
Neurospirituality Lab at Harvard Medical School
Eric Ringger, Professor of Computational Science, Bingham
Young University

3:45 – 4:45 PM
Saturday, April 18 **Young Professionals Panel for all Students Candler Room**
Awards Dinner: Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor)
Hosted by: Southern University and A&M College

6:00 PM – 6:45 PM **Meet and Greet: Grand Ballroom Foyer and Atrium (2nd Floor)**
6:45 PM **All Take Assigned Seats: Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor)**
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM **Awards Banquet: Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor)**
2026 Awards Dinner Speaker
Dr. Narasimhulu Neelagaru
Cardiologist, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist

10:00 PM **Mandatory Volunteer Leaders Briefing: College Park Room**

PROGRAM DAY 4: Sunday, April 19

7:00 AM **Volunteer Leadership Team Arrives at College Park Room**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Breakfast for Volunteer Leaders: College Park Room**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Breakfast for All Students: Atlanta Rooms**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Breakfast for All Advisors: Dogwood + Gardenia Room**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Breakfast for Deans: Fayetteville +Riverdale Rooms**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Breakfast for Judges and Guests: Fayetteville +Riverdale Rooms**

7:00 AM – 8:20 AM **Presidential Breakfast: Peachtree City Room**
(Presidents and Chancellors only)

7:45 AM -8:10 AM **Advisors Feedback Session: Dogwood + Gardenia Room**
Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, General Larry Ellis and Dr. Donald Andrews

8:15 AM -8:40 AM **Presidents/Chancellors Feedback Session: Peachtree City Room**
With: Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan and General Larry Ellis

8:40: AM **All Presidents/Chancellors Proceed to Atlanta Rooms**

8:45 AM -9:15 AM **Feedback Session: Deans Only - Fayetteville +Riverdale Rooms**
With: Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, General Larry Ellis and
Dr. Donald Andrews

8:45 -10:00 AM **Conversations - students and presidents/chancellors: Atlanta Rooms**
Moderator: Shamima Amin
All presidents and chancellors are invited.
All students must attend.

10:15 AM **Program Ends and Participants Depart**