

# NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL POLICY FORUM

LEADERSHIP NEEDED FOUNDATION

APRIL 17-19, 2026 ATLANTA, GA

## *Schedule of Events*

### **Bonus: Thursday, April 16**

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

7:15 PM – 9:15 PM **Dinner: Grand Ballroom**

*OPENING CEREMONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER*

**Stephen A. Smith**

American TV Personality and Entrepreneur

### **PROGRAM DAY 1: Friday, April 17, 2026**

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM Breakfast for Presidents/Chancellors: Peachtree City Room

7:55 AM All participants and attendees proceed to the Grand Ballroom.

8:10 AM – 8:25 AM Very Important General Briefing for all  
Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO  
General(R) Larry Ellis, Chief Judge

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Introduction of the Speaker: General(R) Larry Ellis, US Army  
**Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker:**

**Chris Womack**

Chairman and CEO, Southern Company

9:15 AM All presidents/chancellors proceed to Hartsfield -Jackson Room

9:30 AM Optional: Student Business Plan Competition (see schedule)

11:30 AM All Participants Proceed to the Grand Ballroom

11:30 AM – 12:50 PM Special Friday Luncheon

Introduction of Speaker: Mohammad Bhuiyan, Ph.D.  
Friday Luncheon Keynote Speaker:

**Charlotte Farmer**

Chief Operating Officer, UL Research

Special Presentation by Dr. Bhuiyan and General Ellis

- 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**      **Special Sessions for Presidents/Chancellors: Hartsfield-Jackson**  
**Introduction: Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO.**  
**Greetings: General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, US Army, Honorary Chairman.**
- 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM**      **Developing Entrepreneurial Mindset**  
**Dr. Doug Kaufman, Professor, Duke University.**
- 2:45 PM – 3:30 PM**      **Entrepreneurship and Adversity: Special Focus on “Incarceration or Homelessness”**  
**Dr. Mike Morris, Professor and Director, University of Notre Dame**
- 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM**      **Ice Cream Break**
- 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM**      **Special Session on AI: Presented by Southern Company Experts**  
**Hartsfield-Jackson Amphitheater**  
**THE INTELLIGENT CAMPUS: HOW AI STRENGTHENS LEADERSHIP, STUDENT SUCCESS, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY**
- Cheryl Pressley: Manager, PD Data Analytics & Innovation–GA Power**  
**Lea Clanton: Director, Business Dev. & Innovation–Southern Company**  
**Chris Anderson: Manager, Data Analytics & AI Products–GA Power**
- 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Closing Remarks: Dr. Bhuiyan and General Ellis.**
- 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:**  
**Dinner Keynote Speaker:**  
**Stephen Hightower**  
**President and CEO, Hightower Petroleum Co.**
- Dinner and Announcement of 6 First Round Winners**
- 9:00 PM**      **Buses will Leave for Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel**
- PROGRAM DAY 2: Saturday April 18, 2026**
- 7:00 AM – 7:50 AM**      **Presidential Breakfast: Peachtree City Room**  
**(Presidents and Chancellors only)**

**7:50 AM** **All Presidents/Chancellors proceed 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**

**Session Co-Chairs:**

**Dr. Mark Brown, President, Tuskegee University (Moderator)**  
**Dr. Monique Guillory, President, Dillard University**  
**Dr. Glenell Lee-Pruitt, President, Jarvis Christian University**  
**Dr. Patricia Ramsey, President, Medgar Evers College**

**9:05 – 9:15 AM** **Food Safety and HBCUs: A Special Presentation by Thompson Hospitality**

**9:15 AM – 9:30 AM** **"Laser Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Training Institute":  
Workforce Development Possibilities.**

**Moderator:** Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan, CEO  
**Dr. Enam Chowdhury, Professor, The Ohio State University**  
**General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Honorary Chairman**  
**Dr. Todd Ditmire, Professor, University of Texas at Austin**

**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**

**Session Co-Chairs:**

**Dr. Koffi Akakpo, President, Kentucky State University**  
**Dr. Maurice Edington, President, Univ. of the District of Columbia**  
**Dr. Anthony Jenkins, President, Coppin State University**  
**Dr. James Martin II, Chancellor, North Carolina A&T University (Moderator)**  
**Dwayne Tucker, President, Tennessee State University**  
**Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University**

**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**

**11:30 AM** **Guests take Seats**

**11:45 AM** **Introduction of Honorary Chairman**

**11:47 AM** ***WELCOME***

**General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, US Army, Honorary Chairman**

**11 :52 AM** ***INVOCATION***

**11:53 AM** **Lunch Served**

- 12:15 AM *INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER*  
**Mohammad Bhuiyan, Ph.D., CEO**
- 12:18 PM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Dr. Cecilia Conrad**  
**Founder and CEO of Lever for Change**
- 12:40 PM **Q&A**
- 12:50 AM **ALL SPEAKERS, PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS, PLEASE PROCEED TO ATLANTA ROOMS (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**
- 1:00 PM **Presentation by the First Place Winner from Track 1 or 11 or III**
- 1:35 PM **All Presidents/Chancellors Please Proceed to Hartsfield Jackson Room.**
- 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**  
**Session Co-Chairs:**  
**Dr. Tracy Cook, President, Alcorn State University (Moderator)**  
**Dr. Morakinyo Kuti, President, Central State University**  
**Dr. Vann Newkirk, President, Wilberforce University**  
**Dr. Willie Todd, President, Talladega College**  
**Dr. Johnny Moore, President Rust College**
- 2:45 PM – 3:40 PM **PART-II: **Different Kinds of Threats** for HBCU Campuses**  
**Session Co-Chairs:**  
**Dr. Makola Abdullah, President, Virginia State University**  
**Dr. Anthony Graham, Chancellor, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff**  
**Dr. Samuel Hargrove, Sr., Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University**  
**Dr. Marva Johnson, President, Florida A&M University**  
**Dr. Darrin Martin, President, Bluefield State University**  
**Dr. John K. Pierre Chancellor, Southern University (Moderator)**
- 3:40 PM **Ice Cream Break: Atrium (2nd Floor)**
- 3:50 PM – 5:15 PM **PART-III: SPEACIAL AI Panel from Industry and Academics**  
**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**

**Saturday, April 18**

**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**

**Awards Banquet: Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor)**

**2026 Awards Dinner Speaker**

**Dr. Narasimhulu Neelagaru**

**Cardiologist, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist**

**PROGRAM DAY 3: Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**7:00 AM – 8:10 AM**

**Presidential Breakfast: Peachtree City Room  
(Presidents and Chancellors only)**

**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 -10:00 AM**

**Conversations between students and presidents/chancellors.  
Moderator: Shamima Amin  
All presidents and chancellors are invited.  
All students must attend.**

**10:15 AM**

**Program Ends and Participants Depart**