

NATIONAL DEANS DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

LEADERSHIP NEEDED FOUNDATION

APRIL 17-19, 2026 ATLANTA, GA

Schedule of Events

Bonus: Thursday, April 16, 2026

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 2: Friday, April 17, 2026

6:45 AM – 7:55 AM Breakfast for Deans: (Fayetteville + Riverdale Rooms)

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

11:30 AM – 12:50 PM	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 Deans: 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 3: Saturday April 18, 2026

- 7:00 AM – 7:50 AM** **Deans Breakfast: (Fayetteville + Riverdale Rooms)**
(Presidents and Chancellors only)
- 7:50 AM** **All Deans proceed to Hartsfield -Jackson**
- 8:00 AM – 11:15 AM** **Deans Seminar 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 DEAANS PLEASE PROCEED TO CANDLER ROOM
(LOBBY LEVEL) FOR VIP LUNCHEON**
- 11:30 AM** **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 DEANS, PLEASE PROCEED TO ATLANTA ROOMS (2nd Floor)
1:00 PM	Presentation by the First Place Winner from Track 1 or 11 or III
1:35 PM	All Deans 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: SPECIAL 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 4: Sunday, April 19, 2026

7:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Deans Breakfast: (Fayetteville + Riverdale 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 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