



RUST COLLEGE

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

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RUST COLLEGE CELEBRATES 158TH COMMENCEMENT, HONORS CLASS OF 2024

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS – Rust College held its 158th commencement exercises on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. on the Grand Lawn of the McCoy Administration Building. The college celebrated the achievements of 68 graduates who received their bachelor's degrees.

The commencement ceremony was filled with pomp and circumstance, and the graduates marched in their caps and gowns, ready to embark on their next chapter. The esteemed guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, delivered an inspiring address to the class. He commended the graduates for their resilience and perseverance in overcoming the challenges they faced during their college career, particularly during the pandemic period. Rev. Dr. Haynes praised the class for their strength and determination, referring to them as a 'class with class'.

During the ceremony, the college conferred an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore, a distinguished member of the Class of 1964. Dr. McLemore's lifelong dedication to education, civil rights, and community service has made him a revered figure both at Rust College and throughout the state of Mississippi.

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, and a member of the distinguished Rust College Golden Class of 1974. Dr. Young currently serves as the President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Pre-Commencement Festivities

The commencement weekend was filled with various festivities, beginning on Friday. Anniversary Classes Meet & Greet/Reception and a special Diamond Class (class of 1964) Luncheon were held at the local event center, The Chandelier. These events provided an opportunity for alumni to reconnect and celebrate their shared experiences at Rust College.

Additionally, a Senior Service of Blessing and Consecration was held at the Doxey-Morehouse Auditorium, where graduates gathered for a special ceremony to mark their transition into the next phase of their lives. The graduates also attended a Graduation Reception in the Doxey-Morehouse foyer, where they celebrated their accomplishments with family and friends.

Rust College's 158th commencement was a testament to the resilience, dedication, and achievements of the Class of 2024. The college community congratulates the graduates and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

For more information, contact the Public Relations Office at (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915, cell (662) 544-0950 or at mlesueur@rustcollege.edu.

About Rust College

Rust College is the oldest, most prestigious historically black college in the state of Mississippi. Founded in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rust College offers degree programs in business, education, humanities, science and mathematics, and social science. Rust College equips and inspires students for excellence and service in their communities and throughout the world. Located in Holly Springs, MS, just 35 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

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