Presidential Inauguration
OF
Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.
13th President of Florida Memorial University
October 3, 2014
The Inauguration of

Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.

13th President of
Florida Memorial University
The Inaugural Procession
11:30 A.M.

Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts

Grand Marshal and Macebearer
University Marshals
Delegates from Institutions of Higher Education
The Reverend Clergy
The Elected Officials
The Student Government Association Representatives
The Royal Court

The Inaugural Marshals

Grand Marshal and Macebearer
Denise Callwood-Brathwaite, Ph.D.

Marshal for the Faculty
Robert Labadie, Ph.D.

Marshal for Delegates
William E. Hopper, Ph.D.

Marshal for Clergy
Rev. Wendell H. Paris, Jr., Chaplain

The Platform Party
Faculty of the University
The Deans of the Schools
The President’s Cabinet of the University
The Inaugural Program Participants
The Board of Trustees
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The President
The Inauguration of

Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.

As the 13th President of
Florida Memorial University

Friday, October 3, 2014
11:30 a.m.
Florida Memorial University
Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts

JoLinda L. Herring, Esq., Presiding
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

Invocation................................................................. Bishop Billy Baskin
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

The Negro National Anthem. . . . . . . . "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" . . . . . . . . The Ambassador Chorale
Melvin White, Jr., Director & Interim Chair
Department of Visual & Performing Arts

Welcome and Occasion ............................................ Minister Horace C. Hord, Jr.
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

Acknowledgements & Proclamations. ......................... JoLinda L. Herring, Esq.

Greetings and Salutations to the President

Board of Trustees ..................................................... E. Ray Smith
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

8th President of Florida Memorial College. ..................... Willie C. Robinson, Ph.D.
FMU President 1977-1989

Church Community. .............................................. Rev. Wayne B. Lomax
Member, FMU Board of Trustees
Florida Memorial University Community

Administration ................................................................. Cynthia W. Curry, Vice President
Finance and Administration

Faculty Senate ............................................................... Thomas E. Snowden, Ph.D., President

Staff Council ............................................................... Roscoe Warren, President

Student Government Association ..................................... Jason A. Harris, President

National Alumni Association ........................................... Margaret Porter-Hall, President
Florida Memorial University

Special Presentations

National Association for Equal Opportunity
in Higher Education .............................................................. Lezli Baskerville, J.D.
President

Mentor ............................................................................ Michelle Howard-Vitale, Ph.D.
Former President, Cheyney University (Retired)

Poetic Tribute ................................................................. Rebecca Butterfly Vaughn
Spoken Word Artist

Unveiling of Commissioned Painting ................................ Synthia SAINT JAMES
Visual Artist

Selection ................................................................. “Grateful” .................................................. The Ambassador Chorale
Arranged by Hezekiah Walker Melvin White Jr.

The Investiture of the President

Oath of Office ................................................................. Charles W. George, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Florida Memorial University

Presentation of the Medallion ............................................... Marc T. Henderson
Member, FMU Board of Trustees
Presentation of the Mace. ......................................................... .Gershwin T. Blyden, M.D.  
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

Presentation of the Flag .......................................................... .Michael B. Smith  
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

Presentation of the Charter ..................................................... .Barbara F. Wright  
Member, FMU Board of Trustees

Inaugural Prayer ................................................................. .Bishop Fred T. Simms  
Heart of God Ministries  
Beckley, West Virginia

Presentation of the President. .................................................... Charles W. George

The Inaugural Address ......................................................... .Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.  
13th President, Florida Memorial University

Selection. ...................... “The Best Is Yet to Come” .............The Ambassador Chorale  
Arranged by Donald Lawrence  
Melvin White, Jr.


Benediction ................................................................. .Bishop Billy Baskin

Recessional
Dr. Artis is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she earned her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership and Policy. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from West Virginia University College of Law in Morgantown, West Virginia, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia. The consummate professional, Dr. Artis has extensive experience in university fundraising and holds a Certificate of Fundraising Management from Indiana University. She has also earned a Certificate of Mastery in Prior Learning Assessment from DePaul University’s School of Continuing & Professional Education.

In February, 2014, Dr. Artis was appointed unanimously by the Board of Trustees as the 13th President of Florida Memorial University. She is the first female President in the University’s 135 year history. During her short stint as Acting President at Florida Memorial University, Dr. Artis provided immeasurable leadership and direction to the University family on all levels. In a short time, she has become well-acclimated to the South Florida community, and has been appointed to multiple community boards and associations, increasing involvement and exposure of the University significantly. On campus, Dr. Artis has spearheaded a series of new and innovative programs for students and is diligently striving to improve corporate and community relations and endowment initiatives for the institution.

Throughout her career, Dr. Artis’ extensive academic experience and accomplishments have been widely accepted and highly successful. For nearly a decade, she served in numerous roles at Mountain State University; including Director of Legal Studies, Senior Academic Officer for Distance Education, Vice President of University Advancement, Executive Vice President & Chief Academic Officer, and the University’s Provost. Her responsibilities included the management and supervision of all academic courses and programs for the University; including its distance education offerings, branch campuses, sites and centers, as well as Institutional Research and Assessment.

Dr. Artis’ academic interests have included student retention, particularly as it relates to adult and non-traditional students, academic and co-curricular support structures in alternative learning modalities, strategic planning, institutional effectiveness and executive leadership.

Prior to embarking on a career in academia, Dr. Artis enjoyed an active general litigation practice for eight (8) years. A strong community activist, Dr. Artis is active in a host of statewide and local
organizations. She is a past Chair of the Board of Law Examiners for the state of West Virginia and a past president of the Mountain State Bar Association – the oldest minority bar association in the country.

Currently, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors for the Honey Shine Program and the Orange Bowl Committee. Additionally, Dr. Artis is actively engaged with the Beacon Council as a member of the Academic Leaders Council, a member of the planning committee for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce’s Senior Executive Orientation Program, the Educational Testing Service Presidents’ Advisory Council and has been named to Miami’s Executive Roundtable.

Personally, Dr. Artis is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - South Broward Alumnae Chapter, The Links, Inc. - Dade County Chapter, and Jack and Jill of America, Inc., - Ft. Lauderdale Chapter.

She is married to Selby R. Artis and is the proud mother of three: Christopher, Jayden and Jocelyn.

*Faith – Family – Destiny*

“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14
Florida Memorial University (FMU), is a private, coeducational, and Baptist-affiliated institution that has the distinction of being one of the oldest academic centers in the state, and the only Historically Black University in South Florida.

In 1879, members of the Bethlehem Baptist Association founded the school, then called Florida Baptist Institute, in Live Oak to create “a College of instruction for our ministers and children.” was its first president. Despite tensions soon cast a shadow over after unknown persons fired buildings, then-President Rev. staff members fled Live Oak founded the Florida Baptist of Bethel Baptist Church. They 1892, with Sarah Ann Blocker school in Live Oak, however, after this splintering.

In 1896, Nathan White Collier was appointed president of the Academy, a post he held for 45 years. President Collier recruited renowned composer and Jacksonville native, J. Rosamond Johnson, to teach music at the school. While in the employ of the Florida Baptist Academy, Rosamond composed music for “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” a poem written by his brother, James Weldon Johnson, creating the song that has since been enshrined as the “Negro National Anthem.” It was first performed by a choir that included students from Florida Baptist Academy at a celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in 1900.

The institution numerous graduates who would go on to acclaim within the state and nation, such as Earth M. M. White, the legendary business woman and community servant in Jacksonville; the Rev. Howard Thurman, a renowned figure in American theology, who was recognized in 1952 by Life Magazine as one of the twelve most influential religious leaders in the country; and Harry T. Moore, civil rights advocate and head of the Florida conference of the NAACP.
Because of the dual pressures of a growing student body and not enough space to expand, the Academy took advantage of an offer from the City of St. Augustine to relocate the institution to the 400-acre “Old Hansen Plantation.” The school began its third incarnation [life?] at its new home in St. Augustine on September 24, 1918, as the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute. Influenced by the educational model popularized by Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, students were encouraged to be industrious and self-sufficient, constructing many of the campus buildings themselves, as well as growing and preparing their own food. The students received hands-on training in the practical fields which would allow them to support themselves and their families.

In 1942, the Baptist General State Convention voted to merge its two schools, closing down the Florida Institute at Live Oak and combining it with what would become Florida Normal Industrial and Memorial College in St. Augustine. Florida native and writer of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, served as an instructor for the school during this time.

The advent of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s brought about a whirlwind of challenges and change to St. Augustine. When local African Americans decided to protest and resist segregation in the city, students from Florida Memorial joined the effort, participating in sit-ins, wade-ins, and swim-ins, orchestrated by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The events in St. Augustine significantly influenced federal legislation resulting in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Activism by FMC students, however, threatened to upset the delicate relationship between the City of St. Augustine and Florida Memorial, as well as provoking the resentment and animosity of whites in the area. Given this vulnerable financial and social situation, Dr. Royal W. Puryear oversaw the relocation of the school when, in 1965, the trustees purchased a 48-acre former air strip near Opa-locka in Dade County. On November 11, 1968, the new campus opened as Florida Memorial College. In December 2004, the institution’s charter was amended, and the name Florida Memorial University was adopted.

The FMU legacy is firmly rooted in steadfast dedication and commitment to pursue its mission by “instilling in students the importance of becoming global citizens through life-long learning, leadership, character, and service which will enhance their lives and the lives of others.” Today, FMU offers 34 undergraduate degree programs, 15 concentrations, and 5 graduate degree programs, which are designed to prepare students to function in a highly competitive, technological and global society.

*Prepared by Dr. Tameka Bradley Hobbs, Assistant Professor of History and University Historian, and Dr. William E. Hopper, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Studies, Florida Memorial University.*
The Presidents of Florida Memorial University

Mr. Nathan W. Collier 1st President 1896 - 1903
(President and Former Principal)

Rev. R. H. Holley 2nd President 1927 - 1941
(Florida Baptist Institute)

Dr. William H. Gray, Jr. 3rd President 1942 - 1944

Dr. John Tilley 4th President 1944 - 1949

Dr. Royal W. Puryear 5th President 1950 - 1974
(Florida Normal & Industrial Memorial College/Florida Memorial College)

Dr. Willie Wright 6th President 1975 - 1976

Dr. Paul V. Moore 7th President 1976 - 1977
(Provost/Interim President)

Dr. Willie C. Robinson 8th President 1977 - 1989

Dr. Lee Everett Monroe 9th President 1990 - 1992

Dr. Albert E. Smith 10th President 1993 - 2006
(Florida Memorial College/Florida Memorial University)

Dr. Karl S. Wright 11th President 2006 - 2009

Dr. Henry Lewis, III 12th President 2011 - 2013

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
The 13th President
2014-
Board of Trustees

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Mr. Michael B. Smith
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Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.
Major Walter O. Weatherington
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Publisher Emeritus
The Miami Times

EMERITUS
Mr. I. W. Williams, Esquire
St. Petersburg, FL

PRESIDENT’S CABINET

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Dr. Denise Callwood-Brathwaite, Associate Provost
Ms. Danneal L. Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. Kareem J. Coney, Special Assistant to the President for External Relations
Dr. Thomas E. Snowden, Faculty Senate President
Mr. Robert E. Smith, Athletic Director
**Mission Statement**

Florida Memorial University endeavors to instill in students the importance of becoming global citizens through lifelong learning, leadership, character, and service that will enhance their lives and the lives of others.

**Vision Statement**

“Built upon its foundation of faith and embracing its rich academic legacy, Florida Memorial University is embarking on a promising future that embodies the traditions of our past, harnesses the richness of the present, and through innovation, collaboration and creativity, prepares our students to assume leadership roles, in a highly competitive, technology driven and increasingly global marketplace.”
The academic robes of colleges and universities in the United States are similar to those of Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England. Their style, color fabric and trim were formerly established in 1895 in the U.S. Intercollegiate Code. Caps of the candidates for degrees are adorned with colored tassels, which denote the candidate’s field of study. The tassels of the delegates and faculty at Florida Memorial University are of the following colors:

- School of Arts and Sciences: White, Golden Yellow
- School of Business: Drab (Olive) Light
- School of Education: Blue

Sleeves of academic gowns indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. Long, pointed sleeves indicate a Bachelor’s degree. The Master’s gown has long, closed sleeves, with a slit near the upper arm. The hood is attached to the front of the gown and is draped over the shoulders with a free flow down the back. The Doctor’s gown has round, open sleeves with three velvet bars and has velvet panels down the front. Some gowns may be the color of the department granting the degree, such as Education blue. The hood drapes over the shoulders and flows down the back. It may be black or it may match the color of the hood edging. The Oxford-style, square mortarboard is the headpiece most frequently worn. A soft, round flat, the pileus, is worn occasionally.

The color of the velvet edging on the hood is associated with the various academic disciplines. In the Florida Memorial University academic procession, see the following colors:

- Arts, Letters, Humanities: White
- Accounting, Business: Drab (Olive)
- Economics: Light Blue
- Law: Purple
- Library Science: Lemon
- Music: Pink
- Philosophy: Dark Blue
- Physical Education: Sage Green
- Public Administration: Peacock Blue
- Science: Golden Yellow
- Social Science: Green
- Theology: Scarlet
Symbols of Authority

President’s regalia

Presidential regalia are unique among academic vestments in that they symbolize the president’s rank and authority as the chief official of the institution rather than reflecting an individual’s academic credentials. There are four velvet bars known as “chevrons” on the sleeves of the sleeves presidential regalia. Standard robes for those holding doctorates feature only three. University presidents wear their distinctive regalia when participating in official university ceremonies and convocations. The regalia is worn when representing the institution in official academic occasions at other universities.

One of the most obvious details for Florida Memorial University is its color. The rich blue tone represents one of the school’s colors. This presidential regalia, being presented to the 13th president, Roslyn Clark-Artis, at her inauguration, was designed for the occasion.

University Mace

The University Mace is the official symbol of the university’s power and authority. It is a highly ornamented staff of metal and wood, carried at the front of the procession on such formal academic occasions as investitures, commencement and convocations at universities and colleges.

University Medallion

The University Seal forms the centerpiece of the ceremonial medallion worn by the presidents of the University. It is the official insignia of the University President, and is worn at, ceremonial occasions. Eleven rectangular bronze links represent the tenure of the twelve Florida Memorial presidents and the separate one represents the current University President. Their name and years of service for each former president are indicated on each medallion. The links form a chain and symbolize the continuity of the university’s traditions. The link of the current president rests just above the Seal and is engraved with the title, University President.
University Charter

Application of the first charter for the Florida Baptist Academy, a corporation organized for the purpose of erecting and maintaining an institution of learning under the patronage of the Baptist Churches of Florida was made by Rev. M.V. Gilbert on September 1, 1892. Years later, the charter for The Florida Normal and Industrial Institute was filed wishing to form a corporation for a not-for-profit scientific institution of learning. The institution’s charter has been certified many times including 1924, 1950, 1963, and 2005. The Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for Florida Memorial University, Inc. was certified by the Florida Secretary of State on February 28, 2005 that Florida Memorial University is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on August 30, 1962.

University Flag

The legacy of the lion mascot, College colors and the College Motto has been captured and immortalized in the two flags which were presented to the College faculty, staff and students in early January 2001 and later that same month to the Board of Trustees. The idea of the Florida Memorial College having a College flag was suggested by Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs. President Albert E. Smith suggested a college-wide flag contest so that students would have the opportunity to design the flag. Sixteen contestants entered the contest and in the end, two flags were chosen: one was the FMC Ceremonial Flag designed by Mr. Elvis Thomas; the other was for the FMC Spirit Flag designed by Mr. David Brown. The contestants had to embody the lion, College Motto and the College colors in their designs. Coinciding with the flag contest, Dr. Smith designed two Lapel Pins—one for Founders’ Day and one to honor our graduating seniors.
Delegates From Academic Institutions*

1865
Virginia Union University
Rev. Anthony Burrell
Alumnus

1873
Bennett College
Rosalind Fuse-Hall, J.D.
President

1887
Florida A&M University
Rufus Montgomery
Vice Chair, FAMU Board of Trustees

1904
Bethune Cookman University
Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.
Provost

1908
Murray State University
Crystal Rae Coleman, Ph.D.
Director of Speech and Debate

1940
Barry University
Sister Linda M. Bevilacqua, OP, Ph.D.
President

1960
Miami Dade College
Eduardo Padron, Ph.D.
College President

1961
St. Thomas University
Irma Becerra-Fernandez, Ph.D.
Provost of the University &
Chief Academic Officer

1969
Florida International University
Mark Rosenberg, Ph.D.
President

1990
Miami Dade College
Jeanne F. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Homestead Campus President

Elected Officials*

Vice Mayor Barbara P. T. Smith
City of Bluefield
Bluefield, WV

Vice Mayor Lisa C. Davis
City of Miami Gardens
Miami Gardens, FL

Councilman Erhabor Ighodaro
City of Miami Gardens
Miami Gardens, FL

The Reverend Clergy*

93rd Street Community Baptist Church
Reverend Carl Johnson
Miami, FL

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Arthur Johnson, III
Miami Gardens, FL

Heart of God Ministries
Bishop Fred T. Simms
Beckley, WV

Mount Hermon AME Church
Reverend Michael K. Bouie
Miami Gardens, FL

New Providence Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor Steve Caldwell
Miami, FL

Pilgrim Church of Christ
Reverend Graylin Stargell
Cleveland, OH

St. Agnes Episcopal Church
Father Denrick Rolle
Miami, FL

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Reverend Leroy Harris
Miami, FL

*At time of printing
Elected Officials

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
United States House of Representative

Senator Oscar Braynon, II
State of Florida, District 36

The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor, Miami-Dade County, FL

The Honorable Oliver Gilbert, III
Mayor, City of Miami Gardens, FL

The Honorable Myra L. Taylor
Mayor, City of Opa-Locka, FL

The Honorable Joseph Boles
Mayor, City of St. Augustine, FL

The Honorable Barbara J. Jordan
Miami-Dade Commissioner-District 1

The Honorable Jean Monestime
Miami-Dade Commissioner - District 2

The Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson
Miami Dade Commissioner-District 3

The Honorable Dennis C. Moss
Miami Dade Commissioner-District 9

Justice James E.C. Perry
Florida Supreme Court

Academic Institutions

1865
Virginia Union University
Claude G. Perkins, Ph.D.
President

1866
Rust College
David L. Beckley, M.Ed., Ph.D.
President

1867
Johnson C. Smith University
Ronald Carter, Ph.D.
President

1867
St. Augustine’s University
Everett B. Ward, Ph.D.
Interim President

1869
Tougaloo College
Beverly W. Hogan, Ph.D.
President

1871
Alcorn State University
Alfred Rankins, Jr., Ph.D.
President

1875
Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical
Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D.
President

1876
Prairie View A & M University
George C. Wright, Ph.D.
President

1877
Jackson State University
Carolyn W. Meyers,
President

1882
Virginia State University
Keith T. Miller, Ph.D.
President

1883
Stetson University
Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D.
President

1895
Bluefield State College
Marsha Krotseng, Ph.D.
President

1908
Norfolk State University
Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr., Ph.D.
Interim President

1910
North Carolina Central University
Debra Saunders-White, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Greetings and salutations to the president

Academic Institutions (Cont’d)

1925
University of Miami
Donna E. Shalala, Ph.D.
President

1946
Mississippi Valley State University
William B. Bynum, Jr., Ph.D.

1948
Pensacola State College
C. Edwards Meadows, Ph.D.
President

1957
State College of Florida
Carol F. Probstfeld, Ed.D.
President

1958
Florida Institute Of Technology
Anthony J. Catanese, Ph.D., Faicp
President

1960
Miami Dade College
Eduardo J. Padron, Ph.D.
President

1961
Florida Atlantic University
John Kelly, Ph.D.
President

1961
St. Thomas University
Rev. Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale
President

1964
Nova Southeastern University
George L. Hanbury, II, Ph.D.
President

1969
Florida International University
Mark B. Rosenberg, Ph.D.
President

1972
University of North Florida
John A. Delaney, Ph.D.
President

1991
Florida Gulf Coast University
Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.,
President

Special Congratulatory acknowledgements

Hazel Brown
Aunt of Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis
Aunt Hazel & Family

Jason A. Harris
Florida Memorial University
Student Government Association 2014-2015
President

Fredrick C. Ingram
United Teachers of Dade
President

Susan Landis
Beckley Area Foundation, Inc.
Executive Director

James W. Monroe
United States Army (Retired)

Charles H. Polk, Ph.D
Mountain State University
Former President

Margaret Porter-Hall
Florida Memorial University
National Alumni Association
President

Margaret Ann O’Neal
United Way of Southern WV
Executive Director

Adam H. Putnam
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Commissioner of Agriculture

Fred T. Simms, D.D.
Heart of God Ministries
Senior Pastor

*At time of printing*
Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing

Written by James Weldon Johnson and composed by John Rosamond Johnson (who was a faculty member at Florida Memorial University)

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
   Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list’ning skies,
   Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
   that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope
   that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
   Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod.
   Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
   Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way
   that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path
   thro’ the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from a gloomy past, till now we stand at last
   Where the white gleam
      of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
   Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,
   Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places
   Our God where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world
   we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
   May we forever stand,
      True to our God,
      True to our native land.
Presidential Inaugural Committee

Chair

Ms. Cynthia W. Curry
Vice President for Finance and Administration

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Associate Provost

Ms. Danneal L. Jones
Vice President for Student Affairs

Committee members

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