



The 72nd Commencement

SATURDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF MAY
EIGHT O'CLOCK
IN THE MORNING
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FOUR

R. W. HARRISON COMPLEX
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

DR. JERRYL BRIGGS, SR.
PRESIDENT





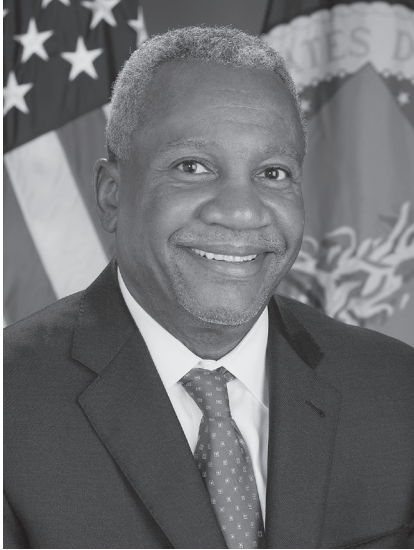
The 72nd Commencement



2024 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

MR. ARCHIE TUCKER

*Area Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Agricultural Research Station, Southeast Area*



Mr. Archie Tucker grew up in Leland, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Leland High School and Mississippi Valley State University where he earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. In addition, he has completed extensive Management Training at the American Management Association, the USDA Graduate School and the Key Executive Leadership training program at American University in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tucker began his government career as a sixteen (16) year old high school student. He has over 48 years of federal service. He currently serves in a SES position as Area Director for the Southeast Area of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Stoneville, MS. Mr. Tucker also held positions of Associate Area Director, Assistant Area Director, Deputy Area Director, Area Administrative Officer, Area Property Management Officer, and Biological Laboratory Technician. He is also the first African American in the history of USDA-ARS to hold positions of Deputy Area Director and Area Administrative Officer.

Mr. Tucker has responsibility for managing and providing leadership and operational accountability for ARS Research Programs in the states of AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This includes 27 research locations, 60 research units, approximately 1,542 employees, of which 482 are PhD scientists, and manages an annual budget of \$350 million dollars.

Mr. Tucker has received numerous honors and awards including the 2024 A.L. Vandergriff Cotton Pioneer Award from the Southern Cotton Ginners Association, the 2022 Presidential Rank Award, which is the highest award a federal civilian employee can receive, Distinguished Alumni Award for 2005 from Mississippi Valley State University, the Dr. James Herbert White Preeminence Award for Achievement in Excellence from Mississippi Valley State University, which is the highest non-academic award given by the University; a resolution from the Mississippi House of Representatives; the Bethune-Carver-Dewey Education Legacy Award from the Southeastern Society of Minorities in Engineering. During the 1999-2000 school year, Mr. Tucker was selected by the State Board of Education as the Parent of the Year for the state of Mississippi. In 2004, Mr. Tucker was a member of the Mid-South Area Workforce Diversity Committee that received the U.S. Secretary and Agency Award for EEO and Civil Rights. In 2014, he received the ARS Administrative and Program Management Award for leadership. Also in 2014, he received an award from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Outstanding Accomplishments in STEM Education Support. In 2015, Mr. Tucker received the Abraham Lincoln Award for exceptional achievement and outstanding contributions to American Agriculture. In 2017 he received the Leland Chamber of Commerce Achievement Ambassador Award for recognition of Outstanding Achievements as an Ambassador for Leland to the world. In 2019, he received the Delta Council Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Aquaculture.

Tucker has been married to Beryl Amos Tucker for 42 years. Their son, Dr. Archie Tucker, II, is Senior Vice President for Advancement at the University of Texas at Tyler. He is married to Veronica Tucker, and they have two sons, Jordan, 16, and Austin, 12. Their daughter, Ashley Tucker Patterson, is Business Manager, Southwest Region, Mississippi State University Extension. She is married to Ken Patterson, and they have two daughters, Alana, 6, and Morgan, 14 months.

PROGRAMME

Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.
President of Mississippi Valley State University
Presiding

Prelude	“Blessed Are They”	Johannes Brahms
Processional	“Fanfare and Processional”	James D. Ployhar
Posting of Colors		Army ROTC
Star Spangled Banner		Mr. Kierre Swims <i>General Studies Major</i>
Invocation	District Superintendent Samuel Sago <i>Pastor, Victorious Faith Ministries Church of God in Christ District Superintendent Greenwood District #5</i>	
Commissioning of Cadets	Major Martini Ford <i>Mississippi National Guard Jackson, MS</i>	
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden <i>Provost/Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs</i>	
Commencement Address	Mr. Archie Tucker <i>Area Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Station, Southeast Area</i>	
Special Recognition		President Briggs
Presentation of Candidates		Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden
Conferring of Master Degrees	Master of Arts / Master of Arts in Teaching / Master of Business Administration / Master of Science	President Briggs
Conferring of Bachelor Degrees	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Social Work	President Briggs
Alumni Induction	Mr. Jerry Redmond, Jr. <i>President of the MVSU National Alumni Association, Inc.</i>	
Remarks/Acknowledgements		President Briggs
*Alma Mater	<i>Joseph Smith, Leader</i>	Traditional
*Benediction		District Superintendent Samuel Sago
**Recessional	"FANFARE AND PROCESSIONAL"	James D. Ployhar
Postlude	"EASTER MONDAY ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN"	R. Mark Rogers

*AUDIENCE, PLEASE STAND

**AUDIENCE, PLEASE REMAIN SEATED DURING RECESSIONAL

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MRS. LIZZIE BAKER-KEYHEA
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Social Science

MRS. MARIE COOPER
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UNDERGRADUATE

- *****Summa Cum Laude** (3.80-4.00 cumulative grade point average)
- ****Magna Cum Laude** (3.50-3.79 cumulative grade point average)
- ***Cum Laude** (3.20-3.49 cumulative grade point average)

GRADUATE

- Highest Distinction** (3.91-4.00 cumulative grade point average)
- High Distinction** (3.81-3.90 cumulative grade point average)
- Distinction** (3.71-3.80 cumulative grade point average)

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NIJAH J. FRANKLIN..... TERRY, MS
JARVIS GREENLEAF GREENWOOD, MS
NIJAH J. FRANKLIN..... TERRY, MS
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CHRISTOPHER D. MCCOY..... MACON, MS
SHYKIM A. SEYMORE..... BATON ROUGE, LA
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LATRINA S. WRIGHT INDIANOLA, MS

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JAMARIUS EVERETT CALUMET, IL

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SPORT ADMINISTRATION

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MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

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TIFFANY L. LITTLE..... ISOLA, MS
ME'SHONDA MALONE..... GREENVILLE, MS
AMLYENG L. PICKENS..... TIPPO, MS
ANAMIKA SHARMA EUNICE, LA
VELMA M. SHAW BELZONI, MS
VICTORIA TROTTER..... CLARKSDALE, MS

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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NATERRA G. YOUNG MEMPHIS, TN

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RURAL PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

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GLORIA J. JONES..... RULEVILLE, MS
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AARADHANA SAXENA NASHVILLE, TN

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JAMERIZ HEMPHILL..... GREENWOOD, MS
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TYLER DORSEY SILVER CITY, MS
SHERUNIKA D. JOURNEY..... ITTA BENA, MS
KAITLYN D. KING..... GREENVILLE, MS
AUN'SHUN LAWRENCE..... GREENWOOD, MS
MARIAH LEE CLEVELAND, MS
RAY E. LUCKETT CANTON, MS
DEANDREA MAXON COURTLAND, MS
EMMITT THOMAS..... CLEVELAND, MS
WILLIE L. TOY..... BELZONI, MS
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MONIQUE S. MCCLAIN..... INDIANOLA, MS
KY'NOSHIA M. MONTGOMERY..... GREENWOOD, MS

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Created by the Mississippi Legislature in 1946 and opened in 1950, Mississippi Valley State University is a regional, state-assisted university, which offers programs of study at the bachelor's and master's degree levels. The University opened in 1950 under the name Mississippi Vocational College. In 1964, the name changed to Mississippi Valley State College, and in 1974, The Valley became Mississippi Valley State University. The name changes reflect the expanding mission and program offerings of the University. The late Dr. James Herbert White was Valley's first president, serving from 1950 to 1971. The late Dr. E.A. Boykins served as the institution's second president, serving from 1971 to 1981. The late Dr. Joe L. Boyer served as Valley's third president from 1982 to 1988. Dr. William W. Sutton served as Valley's fourth president from 1988 to 1998. Dr. Lester C. Newman served as the fifth president from 1998 to 2007. Dr. Donna H. Oliver served as the sixth president from 2009 to 2012. She was the first female to lead the institution and the first African-American female to lead a Mississippi public university. Dr. William B. Bynum, Jr. served as the seventh president from 2013 until 2017. Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. was unanimously selected as the eighth president on October 19, 2017. Building upon the foundation laid by his predecessors, Dr. Briggs has enhanced the mantra "ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM. ONE VALLEY" with the addition of the phrase "...IN MOTION", which exemplifies the University's commitment to putting into practice its values as it continues moving onward to obtain preeminence as a premier institution of higher learning.

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Commissioner of Higher Education

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The traditional attire worn by university officials, faculty, visiting dignitaries, and candidates for degrees originated during the 14th century in medieval England. In that period, individuals were clad in gowns and hoods, which inevitably served to keep them warm because all the buildings were unheated. As a particular dress for distinction, for example, one could easily distinguish an Oxford man from a Cambridge man. The hood was needed to cover the heads of schools.

With the advent of colleges and universities in America, the dress for formal academic affairs took the design of the everyday costumes that were worn in England at universities in the Middle Ages. As the institutions began to increase in number, a group of representatives from leading colleges and universities gathered at Columbia University on May 16, 1885, and agreed to establish appropriate standards and practices for academicians. The Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume was chartered in 1902 by the Regents of the University of the State of New York to serve as an arbiter on academic matters. The 1885 Code was revised in 1932 at the instigation of the American Council on Education and subsequently in 1959.

The origins of formal academic attire, often referred to as “dress” or “regalia,” are deeply imbedded into ceremonial exercises of most of today’s colleges and universities. The Uniform Costume Code, which is supported by the American Council on Education, has been widely adopted throughout the United States except for a few schools which continue to use the styles of England. In brief, the uniform code is evidenced in three types—bachelor’s, master’s and doctor’s. A scholar dressed in academic attire today may be distinguished by the style of gown, hood, mortar board cap, and color of tassel. The cap, gown and hood are generally black. However, in recent years many colleges and universities have adopted institutional colors for their gowns.

The bachelor’s gown is full-cut, falling in a straight line from an elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves; the master’s gown has oblong closed sleeves which terminate in square ends below the knee, and an arc of a circle just above the bottom. There is a slit near the elbow for the arm to come through. A short sleeve master’s gown is also available. The doctor’s gown is an elaborate, full-cut flowing costume distinguished by velvet panels down the front and around the neck. It is characterized by voluminous bell-shaped sleeves on which appear three velvet bars. The color of the bars is normally black but it may be different to designate a field of study, such as green for medicine.

All hoods are lined with silk in the official academic color (or colors) of the institution conferring the degree, edged in velvet. The velvet color indicates the subject to which the degree pertains. The bachelor’s hood is rather short with narrow velvet edging. The master’s hood is considerably longer, has a wider velvet edging and exposes more of the lining. The doctor’s hood has wide panels at the side and is easily recognized since, of the three types of hoods, it has the widest velvet edging, greatest length, and fullest exposure of the lining. The black mortar board cap, with tassel, is worn with each type of gown. Those holding bachelor’s and master’s degrees wear tassels that are either black or the color appropriate to the field of study which they have pursued. A velvet cap with gold tassel is frequently worn by those holding a doctor’s degree.

ACADEMIC COLORS

Agriculture	Maize	Medicine	Green
Arts, Letters, Humanities	White	Music	Pink
Commerce, Accounting, Business	Drab	Nursing.....	Apricot
Dentistry.....	Lilac	Oratory, Speech.....	Silver Gray
Economics.....	Copper	Pharmacy	Olive Green
Education.....	Light Blue	Philosophy	Dark Blue
Engineering.....	Orange	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Fine Arts, Architecture	Brown	Public Health	Salmon Pink
Forestry	Russet	Science	Golden Yellow
Journalism.....	Crimson	Social Work.....	Citron
Law	Purple	Theology.....	Scarlet
Library Science.....	Lemon	Veterinary Science	Gray

ALMA MATER

Hail to thee our Alma Mater
Colors Green and White
MVSU our sons and daughters
Always stand for right.

We will love and cherish thee
Through all our lives
Green and White we will honor
Keeping standards high.

When the days of joy and laughter
Fade upon our sight,
We will love our Alma Mater
Dear old Green and White.

CHORUS

Grateful, loyal, true and faithful
We will be true;
May thy name be everlasting
Dear old MVSU.

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Every effort is made to make the printed program accurate with respect to degrees awarded and honors conferred. However, printing schedules occasionally make this impossible. The student's permanent record, which is on file in the Office of Student Records, is the official record.

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