

## MARCH 11-12 | KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **Dr. Marybeth Gasman | Distinguished Prof., Associate Dean, Rutgers University**

Dr. Marybeth Gasman is the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education and a Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University. She serves as the Executive Director of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Leadership, Equity & Justice and the Executive Director of the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions. Marybeth also serves as the Chair of the Rutgers University-New Brunswick Faculty Council and as the Associate Dean for Research in the Graduate School of Education. Prior to joining the faculty at Rutgers, Marybeth was the Judy & Howard Berkowitz Endowed Professor in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn, Marybeth also served as the founding director of the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Her areas of expertise include the history of American higher education, Minority Serving Institutions (with an emphasis on Historically Black Colleges and Universities), racism and diversity, fundraising and philanthropy, and higher education leadership. She is ranked by Education Week as one of the most influential education scholars in the nation.



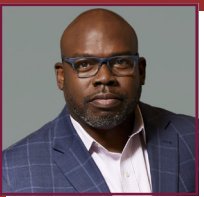
### **Mr. Victor Reinoso | Global Director, Education, Amazon**

Mr. Victor Reinoso is the Global Director of Education Philanthropy at Amazon. He is also co-founder of Odin Therapeutics, a novel immunotherapy platform and founder of Hopscotch Ventures, through which he invests in mission-driven, early-stage startups. A private and public sector entrepreneur, Reinoso previously served as Chair of Education and National Service Policy for Mayor Pete Buttigieg's Presidential campaign, Senior Advisor on Innovation to the President of Georgetown University, and as Washington, DC's first deputy mayor for education. As Deputy Mayor, he led the mayor's takeover of the District of Columbia Public Schools and oversaw the city's \$1-plus-billion education budget and the largest public buildings investment in DC history. Reinoso is a member and moderator of the Aspen Global Leaders Network and the Pahara-Aspen Education Fellowship. He has served on several boards and is a Trustee of the District of Columbia Public Library. Reinoso is a graduate of Georgetown University and MIT.



### **Dr. Joseph H. Silver | President, Silver & Associates**

Dr. Joseph H. Silver is President of Silver and Associates, a full-service consulting firm with a fifteen year track record of assisting colleges and universities with solving complex accreditation issues and developing sound strategic planning. He served as President of Alabama State University, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Clark Atlanta University, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Savannah State University, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University System of Georgia. In 2012, he received the leadership award from the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, which has since been named the "Joseph H. Silver, Sr., LMI Alumni Award." A leadership award is also named in his honor at Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Silver earned a B.A. in political science from St. Augustine's College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University).



### **Mr. James Seth Thompson | Senior Vice President, Bernstein Private Wealth Management**

James Seth Thompson, Senior Vice President and Head of Diverse Markets Strategy at Bernstein Private Wealth Management, empowers multicultural investors to reshape their wealth trajectory, impact, and influence with a fresh perspective on equity, advocacy, responsibility, and investing. Addressing unique client needs, he defines how resources contribute to their legacy, focusing on access, exposure, experience, and education to create systemic wealth and bridge the gap between opportunities and outcomes. James holds several leadership roles, championing diversity, equity, inclusion, recruiting, and talent advancement across the firm. He actively serves as Treasurer for Dignity Housing for the Homeless and as Race and Equity and Empowerment Chair for Philadelphia Youth Basketball. Recognized for his contributions, James has received awards, including the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's HBCU Partner in Diversity Award and Investment News' See It Be It Role Model. He earned a BA in marketing and human resources administration from Temple University.

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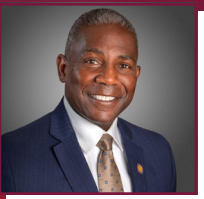
### **Suzanne E. Walsh, JD | President, Bennett College**

Suzanne Walsh is the 19th President of Bennett College, one of two historically black colleges for women in the United States. Prior to that role, she served as the deputy director for postsecondary success with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Suzanne's previous work also includes service at two other prominent foundations: Lumina Foundation in Indianapolis and The Heinz Endowments in Pittsburgh. She is civically active on several non-profit boards including Trellis Foundation, Carey Institute for Global Good, the Harwood Institute, Global Learning Council, the advisory board for Roadtrip Nation and is a proud judge for Dance Your PhD. She is a member of the Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council, appointed by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and has published or edited several books and journal articles on the topic of educational transformation, and is the recipient of numerous awards, honors, and fellowships. Suzanne has an honorary doctorate from Johnson C. Smith University and Case Western Reserve University. She also earned a juris doctorate and master's in social work from Case Western Reserve University, a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, and an associate degree in applied science from Hudson Valley Community College.



### **Dr. Belle S. Wheelan | President, SACSCOC**

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is the first African American and the first woman to serve in this capacity. Her career spans over 40 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president and Secretary of Education. In several of those roles she was the first African American and/or woman to serve in those capacities. Dr. Wheelan received her Bachelor's degree from Trinity University in Texas (1972) with a double major in Psychology and Sociology; her Master's from Louisiana State University (1974) in Developmental Educational Psychology; and her Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin (1984) in Educational Administration with a special concentration in community college leadership.



### **Lt. General (Ret.) Darrell K. Williams | President, Hampton University**

Lieutenant General (Retired) Darrell K. Williams, President of Hampton University, brings over 40 years of successful leadership across military, government, academia, and Fortune 250 companies. With 37 years on active-duty service, he previously served as director for Defense Logistics Agency, leading the U.S. Department of Defense combat support agency for worldwide logistics support, and vice president and managing director for Leidos, overseeing the U.K Ministry of Defense Logistics Commodities and Services Transformation contract.

President Williams is a decorated recipient of the U.S. Defense Distinguished Service Medal, U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal, U.S. Defense Superior Service Medal, U.S. Army Legion of Merit, and U.S. Armed Forces Bronze Star Medal. In 2020, he was honored with the Army Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg Sustainment Leadership Award, the Journal of Black Innovation 2020 Fifty Most Important African Americans in Technology Award, and in 2018, received the Hampton University Distinguished Alumni Award. As a 1983 graduate of Hampton University with a BA in psychology, Williams further earned an MBA from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.