



LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 13, 2020

Livingstone to participate in virtual National HBCU Commencement Saturday

President Obama, Kevin Hart, Steve Harvey among guests

SALISBURY – Livingstone College will be among participating historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) celebrating its 2020 graduates during a virtual National HBCU Commencement celebration this weekend.

The event, hosted by actor and comedian Kevin Hart, will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, and feature an all-star lineup of celebrity guests and sponsors, including President Barack Obama, Steve Harvey, Essence, the NBA and more.

Presented by JP Morgan Chase, the celebration was developed in response to the upheaval that the COVID-19 crisis caused in the lives of students and institutions. Students were forced to vacate their campuses; classes were moved online; and many sacred traditions, including annual commencement ceremonies, were temporarily cancelled or significantly altered.

“The celebration is a virtual event designed to (1) create a positive, lifetime memory for our graduates; (2) highlight our graduates and institutions to an international audience; and (3) raise money for our schools,” said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, celebration chairman and president of Paul Quinn College, an HBCU in Dallas, Texas.

Livingstone is among 78 participating HBCUs. The names of graduates from each school will scroll across the screen during the livestream, and the names of each school’s valedictorians will be announced during the celebration.

Livingstone’s valedictorians this year are Damia Ann Marshall and Tenecious Antroius Underwood.

The National HBCU Commencement is being supported by Howard University, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Thurgood Marshall College Fund and UNCF. Additionally, the following corporate partners are sponsors: JPMorgan Chase, the National Basketball Association, Verizon and Moët Hennessy USA.

Following the commencement on Saturday, Hennessy will sponsor its official [#ShowMeYourWalk](#) HBCU Grad Party with DJ [D-Nice](#), rapper and entrepreneur [NAS](#) and rapper [ASAP Ferg](#). The celebration continues on Sunday with an HBCU Graduation Cookout.

There are five ways to tune in to the national HBCU Commencement: [Chase Twitter](#), [Chase YouTube](#), [JPMorgan Chase LinkedIn](#), [Essence Studios](#), and [HBCU Connect Facebook Live](#).

Livingstone decided to postpone its May commencement to December 2020 to coincide with its annual December graduation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many of Livingstone’s graduates are first-generation college students and commencement is more than a ceremony, said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr.

“Commencement is a celebration of their parents’ sacrifices and of their accomplishments despite the odds,” Jenkins said. “It’s a time to inspire others in their families to pursue their own educational goals. It’s truly a family affair.”

“To participate in this virtual National HBCU Commencement offers Livingstone a broader platform in which to celebrate our May 2020 graduates in lieu of our local ceremony,” Jenkins said. “Kudos to the Celebration Committee for securing an all-star lineup of celebrities and professional athletes to honor these graduates and mark this milestone in their lives in a remarkable alternative ceremony. Congratulations to our Blue Bear graduates. We’ll be watching and cheering them on.”

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May 19, 2020

Livingstone to host virtual Open House Thursday

SALISBURY – Livingstone College will host a virtual Open House on Thursday via its official YouTube page.

The college's spring Open House in April was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The virtual Open House is from 1-3 p.m. May 21 and will feature opening remarks by President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., as well as information from financial aid, residence life, student activities, health services, athletics, band and Summer Bridge Program representatives.

The speakers will accept questions via YouTube's chat on the day of the event, or students and parents can submit questions in advance by emailing them to admissions@livingstone.edu.

While the on-campus Open House affords students an up close and personal experience of Livingstone College, this abbreviated virtual event is designed to offer a snapshot of campus life, provide important information regarding the fall semester, and answer parents and students' questions, said Dr. Tony Baldwin, enrollment manager and associate vice president for the operations of student affairs.

"Our Office of Communications has created an immersive virtual tour for students and parents that allows them to feel as if they are on campus in lieu of onsite visits," Baldwin said. "We have to adapt to the times and today, virtual meetings and tours are the safest way to conduct business due to social distance practices."

The virtual tour can be found here: [Livingstone Admissions](#).

No registration is required for the Open House. Students and parents can simply tune in at 1 p.m. May 21 on Livingstone's official YouTube page found here: [Livingstone College YouTube](#).

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May 28, 2020

Livingstone awarded \$500,000 grant to preserve historic Monroe Street School

SALISBURY – Livingstone College has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to preserve its historic Monroe Street School property.

The award, announced and administered by the National Park Service, is part of \$14 million in African American Civil Rights Historic Preservation Fund grants that will finance 51 projects across 20 states and the District of Columbia to preserve sites and history related to the African-American struggle for equality in the 20th Century.

Monroe Street School, located at 1100 West Monroe Street across from Livingstone College, was the first high school – J.C. Price High School – constructed for African Americans in Salisbury. It was a high school from 1923 until 1938 when a larger high school was built due to overcrowding. The new facility on Bank Street became J.C. Price High School and the former school on Monroe Street was renamed Monroe Street Elementary School, serving as a public school in some capacity until the 1980's when it was sold to Livingstone College.

It's currently named the S.E. Duncan Education Center, in honor of the fifth president of Livingstone College, Dr. Samuel Edward Duncan. In 2003, the property met the historic designation for both education and ethnic heritage and was designated an historical site by the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service.

The building, last used as the West End Head Start Center and Livingstone's Education Department, has been vacant for approximately 15 years due to unabated asbestos.

Dr. Carolyn Duncan, Livingstone College director of grants, student scholarships and special projects, said the grant will be used to stabilize deterioration, preserve the structure and repurpose the building, including securing an engineer's assessment and an architect's design; repairing the roof, windows and doors; removing trash and debris inside and out; and abating environmental concerns.

“Preserving the Monroe Street School is the next logical step for this historic property,” said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. “The significance of the history of the building, the architectural design, and the physical location in the West End community is a visual reminder of the history and the progress of the city in race relations and the cultural significance of the African-American contributions to the city.

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June 2, 2020

Livingstone secures second \$500,000 grant for its historic Andrew Carnegie Library

SALISBURY – In under two years, Livingstone College has been awarded a total \$1 million to rehabilitate the historic Andrew Carnegie Library, located on its Salisbury campus.

The National Park Service announced the first award in August 2018. The second grant award was made this spring, a welcomed announcement during the coronavirus pandemic.

The award was made possible through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities grant program, funded by the Historic Preservation Fund, and administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. It is part of \$7.7 million in grants to 18 projects in 12 states for the preservation of historic structures on campuses of HBCUs.

The first grant award was designated for Phase I, which included the engineering architectural survey, water infiltration work to stabilize the foundation, and roof repairs/replacement.

“We were able to complete the engineering and architectural survey of the condition of the building before the coronavirus pre-empted further work,” said Dr. Carolyn Duncan, Livingstone’s grant writer. “We expect work to proceed again in June.”

The recent grant will be used to complete Phase II, which includes installing an HVAC system to adequately heat and cool the building, keeping the climate at a temperature that will help extend the life of paper documents, which consists of historical African-American archives and memorabilia; replacing outdated electrical wiring and increasing electrical outlets throughout the building; replacing obsolete light fixtures throughout and providing adequate lighting; situating Ethernet portals and internet charging stations for students and patrons; and repairing plaster and painting the inside of the building, Duncan said.

The library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is named after the 19th century industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, who funded many libraries with 18 of them being on the campuses of HBCUs. But there are only two academic libraries that were allowed to use the donor’s first name: the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall in Carnegie, Pa., and Livingstone College.

Livingstone’s library was funded with \$12,500 in 1905 at the behest of Booker T. Washington. The library was designed by Robert Robinson Taylor, the first academically trained African-American architect in the United States. Many of the bricks were fired in the campus kiln. Campus brick mason students laid many of the bricks.

“I am so pleased that we were able to get the additional funds. Now we will really be able to repair the infrastructure of the building and work toward our goal of making the Andrew Carnegie Library at Livingstone a repository for North Carolina history,” said Laura Johnson, Livingstone College library director.

In 2017, Livingstone College President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., designated a Federal Grants and Contracts Committee, which began seeking a funding project. The committee started collecting historical information, quotes from contractors and input from people such as Karen Hobson of the Historic Salisbury Foundation.

Duncan led the project and at the time was vice president of academic affairs. Under her new role as director of grants, student scholarships and special projects, she has secured \$1 million for the library as well as a \$500,000 grant to help fix up the historic Monroe Street School, which is property of the college.

“Dr. Duncan and the grants committee are doing an outstanding job in securing the funds we need to bring our library up to date with 21st Century amenities while preserving its historical character,” Jenkins said. “We are grateful to the National Park Service’s program that helps to honor the legacy of HBCUs.”

More on the library

The Andrew Carnegie Library began in 1893 on the second floor of what was then known as Hunnington Hall. Dr. W.H. Golar, Livingstone president at the time, Dr. Booker T. Washington and Bishop George C. Clinton secured \$12,500 from Andrew Carnegie in 1905 for the construction of the first library building on campus. The facility was dedicated in 1908.

Due to increased enrollment and expanding collections, the library’s size became inadequate. The first expansion was in 1948 thanks to a generous donation from the General Education Board. The second expansion occurred in 1958, doubling stack capacity and seating capacity. A third edition provided several luxuries, including carpeting for the floors, air conditioning and a new basement.

The current collection contains more than 60,000 volumes housed in general and reference stack areas. Special collections include the African-American Collection, a small American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church collection, as well as some private collections of local scholars.

The library is used for college and community events. It partners with community organizations such as the Rowan County Museum, the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, and the NC Digital Heritage Center to maintain and preserve its collections and provide information to the community to support patron access to documents about Livingstone College and African American history as residents of North Carolina.

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June 16, 2020

Livingstone to host phone-a-thon with twist on Juneteenth

SALISBURY – The phones will be ringing off the hooks this Friday at Livingstone College as the historic HBCU in Salisbury hosts its first Phone-A-Thon – with a twist.

That is the intent of organizers Vincia Benjamin Miller, director of alumni affairs; Deborah Johnson, United Negro College Fund (UNCF) director for the college; and Dr. Anthony Davis, chief operating officer and vice president of institutional advancement.

The event is from 12-6 p.m. on Friday, June 19, also known as Juneteenth, the oldest nationally-celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States in which slaves in Galveston, Texas, didn't learn of the Emancipation Proclamation until two and half years after it was official.

There will be a four phone lines open for the phone-a-thon or donors can drop by the Walls Center on campus at 800 West Thomas Street to deliver their donations in person. The online option is still available at www.livingstone.edu as well as check or money order by mail to Office of Alumni Affairs, 701 West Monroe St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Numbers to call are: (704) 216-6009; (704) 216-6950; (704) 216-6118; and (704) 216-6962.

Now for the twist. The phone-a-thon will feature a different deejay for every hour of the campaign, live on Livingstone College's official YouTube Channel from the Walls Center. Plus it will air live on the campus radio station, WLJZ 107.1 FM. Deejays to be featured include CP the Peoples Champ, DJ Special K, Gate III, DJ Smaxkz, DJ King and DJ Trelz.

“We've participated in phone-a-thons before that were hosted by UNCF, but we've never hosted one on our campus to my knowledge in the 30 years I've been here,” Johnson said.

On-air announcements and check presentations will be made. Pledges will also be accepted, but all donations must be received by the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30.

More than 20 volunteers, alumni, staff and community volunteers will man phone lines and assist in executing the event, Miller said.

“This is a creative way for our alumni and friends to give and to help raise funds for our students and for scholarships,” Miller said. “Donors can designate where they want to apply their contributions, whether it be for UNCF, scholarships, athletics, band or the concert choir. It’s up to them.”

Johnson said any monies donated specifically for UNCF will be applied toward Livingstone’s goal.

“No amount is too large or too small,” Miller said. “We thank you for your continued love and support throughout the 2019-2020 school year and look forward to seeing and hearing from you during the phone-a-thon.”

“There is a renewed interest in Juneteenth this year due to the current racial climate in our country,” said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. “This is an ideal occasion to put your money where your heart is and support Livingstone College as our mission is to transform lives so that they can impact the world.”

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June 18, 2020

Livingstone College wins one for the books

NEA awards \$15,000 Big Read grant

SALISBURY – Livingstone College was awarded a \$15,000 grant to host the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read in Rowan County.

Livingstone was one of 84 nonprofit organizations selected to receive an NEA Big Read grant to support a community reading program between September 2020 and June 2021. The NEA Big Read is an Arts Endowment initiative in partnership with Arts Midwest. Its purpose is to broaden the understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

The NEA Big Read in Rowan County will focus on Adrian Matejka's, "The Big Smoke." Activities will take place April 2-May 7, 2021. "Our text is an exquisite collection of poetry that depicts the heavyweight champion Jack Johnson as a social phenomenon through a literary lens," said Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish, program director and history and African-American studies professor at Livingstone College. "As literature allows the imagination to exist where often perceptions can be reconstructed and redefined, I'm eager to unfold how this communal lesson can increase the complexities of self-awareness and acquire new perspectives."

Livingstone College will host shared activities with several community partners to include the Rowan Public Library, Families and Communities Together (F.A.C.T.) and Hornets' Nest Girl Scouts Troop 454.

"For over 140 years, Livingstone College has provided leadership to the global society whereas our effort in the Big Read is simply another way the college does its best to serve," said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. "We are thankful for the friends we have in Rowan County who have partnered with us, and we are grateful to NEA for this opportunity to recognize the importance of literacy and community."

"During this time of social isolation throughout our country, we have become even more aware of the important ways the arts help us connect with others, and how they bring meaning, joy and comfort to our lives," said Mary Anne Carter, NEA chairman. "By bringing the NEA Big Read to the Rowan-Salisbury community, Livingstone College will provide thoughtful and fun programming while also strengthening community bonds."

The NEA Big Read offers a range of titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program, managed by Arts Midwest, which annually supports dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection.

"We are honored to continue our partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts on this incredible program," said Torrie Allen, president and CEO of Arts Midwest. "For more than 14 years, this national effort

has invested in communities as they gather to discuss the stories and ideas that connect us to one another. We are especially inspired by the projects and organizations that are finding new, virtual ways of creating those connections with their communities and are thrilled to support them at this critical time.”

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,600 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than \$22 million to organizations nationwide. Over the past 13 years, grantees have leveraged more than \$50 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, approximately 91,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 39,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible. For more information about the NEA Big Read, including book and author information, podcasts and videos, visit [arts.gov/neabigread](https://www.arts.gov/neabigread).

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July 14, 2020

A 'Stone's throw away from home

Livingstone offers incentives to local students to avoid college deferral

SALISBURY – Livingstone College is offering a special incentive for students who live within a 50-mile radius of its campus.

Qualified freshmen attending Livingstone College already receive a \$3,000 incentive grant, but for the 2020 fall semester, the college is adding an additional \$1,000 to the award for a total savings of \$4,000.

Additionally, the college is waiving the requirement that freshmen must live on campus in order to qualify for the grant.

“This pandemic has caused economic hardships on families, and students are considering not pursuing their educational plans due to financial and health reasons,” said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. “As a local option for higher learning, we’re announcing incentives that could make the choice easier for students to not defer their undergraduate studies and consider staying close to home.”

“We realize that local students prefer to attend college out of town – and we get that,” said Kimberly Harrington, director of public relations for Livingstone College. “But these are uncertain times where normal might not be ideal or even possible. Rather than delay college, Livingstone is making it more affordable and convenient to attend college a stone’s (pun intended) throw away from home.”

By waiving the freshmen housing requirement, students can opt to stay at home or live on campus. The choice is theirs.

Registration is currently under way at Livingstone now through September, as classes are expected to begin Sept. 10. There are also early-bird incentives for registration as well. Visit www.livingstone.edu to register and for more information.

“This incentive package is another way Livingstone exemplifies that we are always resilient, relevant and ready,” said Dr. Anthony Davis, vice president of Institutional Advancement and chief operating officer. “It is a demonstration of our commitment to accommodate the student population we serve.”

Founded by a group of AME Zion ministers to educate newly-freed slaves, Livingstone provides excellent business, liberal arts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), teacher education and workforce development programs for students to promote lifelong learning and to develop student potential for leadership and service.

For 141 years, the doors of Livingstone College have been open to men and women regardless of race, national or ethnic origin. However, the mission of Livingstone College has remained consistent – providing educational opportunity for young men and women regardless of their socio-economic status.

For admissions questions, email tbaldwin@livingstone.edu or call (704) 216-6001.

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Aug. 27, 2020

Livingstone opens campus Thursday with COVID testing for staff, words of hope

SALISBURY – Livingstone College officially reopened its campus Thursday with staff members reporting to their offices for a virtual opening session followed by COVID-19 testing.

The virtual opening session began at 10:30 a.m. with opening remarks by Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., who highlighted events during the past five months in which the campus was closed due to the global pandemic.

The world was attacked by an invisible enemy and like many other college campuses, Livingstone shut down its in-person learning in March and transitioned to distance learning.

“It seemed surreal for all of us – more like a nightmare,” Jenkins said. “This enemy has taken away a major part of our DNA. We are social beings, but we now have to learn to curtail socialization. It is disturbing, but it is what it is. We have to follow the protocols so we can survive this pandemic.”

Jenkins commended his senior staff members and faculty for adjusting efficiently to the new normal in organizing distance learning and maintaining their engagement with students over the past few months.

Jenkins also commended the college’s Reopening Task Force, led by Dr. Anthony J. Davis, senior vice president of Institutional Advancement and chief operating officer, which developed eight protocols to safely reassume campus operations.

Davis outlined those protocols in a series of short videos played during the virtual opening session, where staff members participated in from their respective offices.

The protocols range from screening, security, protection and prevention, and space utilization to disinfectant, food services, quarantine and isolation, and testing. A full description of the protocols can be found at www.livingstone.edu under the coronavirus news and updates tab.

Following the virtual opening session, all staff members, scheduled at various times, reported to Varick Auditorium for COVID-19 testing as part of the college’s screening protocol. Ottendorf Laboratories of Gastonia, North Carolina, partnered with Livingstone to identify asymptomatic cases, which have the capability of expeditiously fueling the spread of the virus. Studies show that four out of five people infected with COVID-19 do not have symptoms, Davis said.

Staff members testing negative will be cleared to return to work on Monday, Aug. 31. Faculty will be tested on another date, and all students will be tested upon arriving to campus.

Residence assistants and student government leaders start returning to campus on Sept. 1; all in-state new students on Sept. 4; out-of-state new students on Sept. 5; and upper classmen Sept. 8-9. Classes begin Sept. 10.

Davis described Jenkins' pivotal response to the pandemic as calm, calculated, convicted and compassionate. Livingstone doesn't have the nine-figure endowments that some larger colleges boast, yet there have been no layoffs or furloughs during this pandemic because it was important to Jenkins that his staff "continue their quality of life," he noted.

Jenkins and his senior staff are hopeful that Livingstone will survive this pandemic and relayed that sentiment to the staff on Thursday.

"It's important we adhere to the protocols," Jenkins said. "This is about life and health. We're doing all these things to make sure we can keep our community safe," he said of reopening. "We're excited, but at the same time, we're cautiously optimistic."

"I believe we are prepared to survive and come out in better shape than going in," Jenkins said. "There are 1,001 excuses for failure, but the world is looking for someone who can defy the odds. We want people to look back at this situation and say we were prepared – and we endured."

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Sept. 4, 2020

Livingstone tests all freshmen for COVID as they move in this weekend

SALISBURY – Excited freshmen brought life onto the campus of Livingstone College Friday as they moved into their new homes for the next nine weeks.

It's been five months since the college hosted students in person due to the global pandemic and the energy was contagious. A deejay at the hospitality tent gave rhythm to the cadence of activity as more than 100 students facilitated a streamlined five-step registration process.

"The process has been smooth," said Dr. Tony A. Baldwin, enrollment manager and associate vice president for the operations of Student Affairs. "We have not heard one complaint from parents. In fact, they have said we are doing a great job in moving students in and out."

In addition to a fast-track registration process, students and their parents were allowed only 30 minutes to unload luggage and other belongings into the residence halls to minimize public contact and social gathering.

Donning their own masks, students were also presented Livingstone branded COVID-19 kits, which contained five reusable masks, hand sanitizer and an ID badge.

And in accordance with the school's screening protocol, everyone who entered campus received a temperature check by an officer of public safety.

"I feel like you guys have over prepared," said parent Theresa Tudor, whose daughter Ronee is a student-athlete on the track team. "You all probably won't run into the issues these other schools have had that went back in August, so I feel very confident that she'll be fine."

Parent Karen DeLoatch, whose daughter is a freshman, said the COVID tests Livingstone is giving each student upon arrival provides her with a sense of security. "I think you all are doing good as far as testing to make sure no one is sick and to make sure that everyone is safe."

"Looks like we're geared up and ready to go," said Bruce Stanback, the new Livingstone College National Alumni Association president, who toured campus Thursday. "I wanted to stop by to see for myself because alumni will be asking and have asked about the college's preparations."

Stanback said he was impressed to see everyone complying with mask wearing and by the six-foot markers throughout the campus grounds.

This summer, Livingstone's Reopening Task Force developed a comprehensive plan that details eight protocols for reassuming campus operations. The protocols range from screening, security, protection and prevention, and space utilization to disinfectant, food services, quarantine and isolation, and testing. A video playlist of the protocols can be found at www.livingstone.edu under the coronavirus news and updates tab.

“Plan the work and work the plan, that’s what’s happening as we deploy the protocols,” said Dr. Anthony Davis, chief operating officer and senior vice president of Institutional Advancement, who chaired the task force. “The success parents and students are seeing today is a result of our extensive efforts to foster a safe, reopening of our campus; to mitigate our risks; and to reduce our rate of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.”

Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., walked the campus and greeted parents and students as they moved in, assuring them that Livingstone is doing everything possible to maintain a safe environment.

However, that will require that students, faculty and staff comply with the guidelines.

“Livingstone is a CDC-compliant campus community, Jenkins said, “which means we support washing our hands to help stop the spread, wearing our masks, social distancing six feet apart and testing for COVID. There will be no exceptions and violations will not be tolerated.”

“Livingstone is creating an environment where students can come to college – with confidence,” he said.

In-state freshmen moved in on Friday and out-of-state freshmen will move in on Sept. 5. Upperclassmen will return to campus Sept. 8-9. Classes will begin on Sept. 10 and run through Thanksgiving break when the campus will close until February. To view the onboarding schedule and academic calendar, visit www.livingstone.edu.

Click this link to view highlights of our move-in day on Thursday: [Livingstonemoveinday](#)

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Sept. 11, 2020

Livingstone Board of Trustee member is 2021 Endocrine Society Laureate Award winner *Gavin named Mentor of the Year*

SALISBURY – Livingstone College Board of Trustee member, Dr. James R. Gavin, III, has been selected to receive the Endocrine Society’s Laureate Award as Mentor of the Year for 2021.

The Endocrine Society is the foremost professional organization for endocrine scientists, researchers, practitioners and educators in the world. The annual award recognizes a career commitment to mentoring and a significant positive impact on mentees’ education and career, according to the Society’s website.

Gavin has served as a direct mentor to more than 50 early stage physician-scientists and has touched the careers of countless others through his leadership of both the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Research Scholars Program and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP).

During his more than 35-year involvement with the RWJF AMFDP, he has contributed to the career development of more than 300 minority physician-scientists.

“This is a very special award to me and a pinnacle personal honor because the award is driven by nominations from young scholars who feel that I have had a positive impact on their lives and careers,” Gavin said. “This is as meaningful and important to me as any brick-and-mortar award. I am humbled and honored by this designation.”

Adding even more sentiment to the award is that one of Gavin’s mentees, Dr. Anne L. Peters, is also a 2021 award recipient in the Outstanding Public Service Award category; and one of his own mentors, Dr. Phillip Gorden, is recipient of the Fred Conrad Koch Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gavin said in all of his mentoring activities over the decades, he always echoes the excellent mentoring he received at Livingstone College and how important that experience has been for the entirety of his career.

“Those who assert that I have made a difference in their lives always know that they owe a bit of debt to Livingstone,” he said.

Gavin is a clinical professor of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., and the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind. He is also chief executive officer and chief medical

officer of Healing Our Village, Inc., a corporation that specializes in targeted advocacy, training, education, disease management, and outreach for health care professionals and minority communities.

“We are extremely proud of this special recognition being bestowed upon one of our most esteemed alumni and Board of Trustee members in that of Dr. Gavin,” said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. “He is as philanthropic as he is a mentor, having given generously to his alma mater throughout the years. This kind of honor demonstrates to our campus community the influence and impact that Livingstone College can have on students and the unyielding reach of its legacy.”