

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS!



DR. TIA STOKES-BROWN

*Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Coastal Carolina University*

As vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion, Atiya Stokes-Brown, Ph.D., serves as Coastal Carolina University's first diversity, equity and inclusion officer. The chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer guides efforts to conceptualize, define, assess, nurture and cultivate diversity and inclusion as an institutional resource. By collaborating across campus and with surrounding communities, Stokes-Brown oversees the implementation of strategies that advance accessibility, inclusion and diversity as key parts of the institution's strategic plan. She also provides administrative supervision for Intercultural and Inclusion Student Services and Accessibility and Disability Services.

A dynamic leader with 15 years of experience teaching and conducting research at the university level, Stokes-Brown has worked collaboratively in numerous capacities across college and university communities, demonstrating strong academic and administrative leadership, and a deep passion for liberal arts education. Prior to serving as assistant vice president for diversity and inclusion, she served as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Bucknell University and held several administrative positions at the university including interim associate provost for diversity, faculty fellow in the Office of the Associate Provost for Diversity, and assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Drawn to academia by the desire to give back and help build inclusive communities, Stokes-Brown received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Maryland, College Park and her master's in Political Science from Temple University. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa with bachelor's degrees in politics and dance from Randolph-Macon Woman's College (currently known as Randolph College). Her teaching interests include American politics, racial/ethnic minority political behavior, Latino politics, women and politics, campaigns and elections, and Congressional/state politics. Stokes-Brown's scholarly publications broadly center on the political incorporation of women and racial/ethnic groups into the American political system, and issues of representation. She is the author of *The Politics of Race in Latino Communities: Walking the Color Line* (Routledge, 2012, 2014) and her work has appeared in several peer-reviewed journals including the *Journal of Politics*, *American Politics Research*, *Politics and Policy*, the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *National Political Science Review*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. She is also the author of several peer-reviewed book chapters. A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Stokes-Brown resides in Myrtle Beach with her husband and four children.



CHRIS SINGLETON

*Former Pro Baseball Player, Inspirational Speaker
Director of Community Engagement, Charleston RiverDogs*

Chris Singleton is a former professional athlete drafted by the Chicago Cubs in 2017. Following the loss of his mother in a racially motivated mass shooting, Chris has now become an inspirational speaker and best-selling author who has shared his message of unity and racial reconciliation with clients such as: Microsoft, Biogen, Houston Texans, Washington Wizards, etc. He shares with over 50 organizations and over 30,000 students annually. Chris' overall mission when speaking is to inspire his audiences with his story of resilience and to unite millions of people with his belief that, "Love is Stronger Than Hate." One of his children's books, *Different - A Story About Loving Your Neighbor*, was a best seller in its category and has been featured by numerous outlets, including The Obama Foundation. His second book is titled "Your Life Matters." The books can be found on his website: www.chrissingleton.com. Chris is also the Director of Community Outreach with the Charleston RiverDogs.

Chris resides with his spouse Mariana, his son CJ and his younger brother, Caleb, who he cares for in Charleston, SC.



DR. RÉNARD HARRIS

*Vice President of Access and Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer
College of Charleston*

Rénard Harris is the Vice President of Access and Inclusion and the Chief Diversity Officer at the College of Charleston (2016-present). His primary responsibilities are to raise the visibility of the institution's diversity efforts by building collaborative relationships, unifying the campus by educating and highlighting the core essence and strengths of various identities, guiding diversity programs and workshops, and creating initiatives that improve the success of underserved students.

Harris has been at the College of Charleston since the fall of 2005. He began as a faculty member and was promoted to associate professor of teacher education in 2013. Since his time at the College of Charleston and several years prior, he has explored multicultural education, diversity, equity, and inclusion, storytelling, the Blues as story, cultural responsiveness and bias. He is often called upon to serve as a keynote speaker, diversity facilitator and consultant for businesses and educational institutions. Harris holds an Ed.D. in teacher education from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn., where he completed his dissertation entitled *An Interpretive Analysis of the Formative Period of Journal Publications Related to Multicultural Education, 1977-1987*, under the guidance of chair Thomas Turner. He completed an M.S. in curriculum and instruction at the University of Tennessee and taught for five years at Alcoa Middle School in Alcoa, Tennessee.



DR. TRACY BAILEY

Founder and Executive Director, Freedom Readers

Dr. Bailey earned a Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Language and Literacy at the University of South Carolina in May of 2013. Tracy seeks to instill in teachers, students, and the community at large the belief that every student can learn and every learner has the responsibility to pass on new knowledge to another.

Dr. Bailey began her career in education as a high school English instructor. After realizing the impact of professional development and community literacy on her personal and professional growth, she decided to take her work to the streets. Since then her passion for teaching and learning has taken her around the country, and she has had the opportunity to be a part of the success of hundreds of students and teachers. Dr. Bailey earned her BA from The College of Charleston- majoring in English Education- and a Masters in Secondary Education from Coastal Carolina University. She is married to award-winning writer, Issac J. Bailey, and is the mother of two wonderful children, Kyle and Lyric.



KAREN RIORDAN

President and CEO, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Karen Riordan serves as the President & CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber, where she spends her time working with the business community and driving tourism for our destination. Karen brings 25+ years of marketing and business management experience, working as CEO for the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, as well as at top marketing firms in Washington, D.C. and Boston, MA.

Over the course of her career, Karen has led marketing programs for leading brands in tourism, including Visit Williamsburg, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Royal Caribbean International, Amtrak, Choice Hotels International and Celebrity Cruises. Karen graduated from Boston College with a B.A. in Speech Communications and English. She was recognized in March 2021 as the first President and CEO of the Chamber at the City of Myrtle Beach's celebration of Women's History Month. In 2018 she was named Chamber Executive of the Year by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. She was the 2013 recipient of the American Advertising Federation's Silver Medal award for service to the community and is a 2012 honoree of the Washington Business Journal's "Women Who Mean Business."

When not working on branding, Karen's passions include traveling, reading travel magazines, walking the beach, and all things made of chocolate.



DR. TODD "BOWTIE" JENKINS

Founder and CEO, Bowtie Leadership and Development, Inc.

Dr. Jenkins is the Founder and CEO of Bowtie Leadership and Development, Inc., a global leadership management training and coaching firm with a focus on bringing diverse people together to increase individual or organizational productivity and performance. Dr. Jenkins has more than ten years of experience as a senior partner and chief diversity executive, trainer, and strategist. His portfolio includes clients from various non-profits, small businesses, colleges and universities, and large corporations such as Walmart Inc., Verizon, Coca-Cola Inc, Tyson Foods, Inc., Deloitte, Inc, Black Hills Energy Inc., CNN, Facebook, IBM, American Airlines, Amazon, Google, and Starbucks to name a few. Also, as another "first," he serves in the newly created senior role to lead a formal Diversity and Inclusion initiative at J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc., a Fortune 400 supply chain and logistics company that specializes in transportation. Throughout his consulting firm and keynotes, he has spoken to large crowds with over 30, 000 people in Korea and multiple engagements across the globe in South America, North America, Asia, and Europe. Bowtie Leadership and Development senior partners and the team has a combined 65 years of experience in leadership development, diversity and inclusion, human resources, and training and development.

Dr. Jenkins is a proud alumnus of The University of South Carolina, where he graduated with high honors and received two undergraduate degrees, his Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He earned his Master of Science from Illinois State University and a doctorate from the University of Arkansas. Currently, he is a faculty member at Executive Institute on Inclusion and completing his post-doctorate studies focus on "Biases and Inclusion in the Workplace" at Harvard University. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Jenkins serves on multiple boards in his local community, colleges and universities, and internationally through global organizations such as Rotary International.

In January 2020, Dr. Jenkins received recognition as a Top 25 Influencer in Business, along with names such as Doug McMillon, CEO of Walmart, state senators, and prestigious business leaders by Arkansas Money and Politics Magazine. In 2019, he was selected as one of the Top 100 Diversity and Inclusion Executives under 50 by DiversityMBA Global magazine, "40 under 40" by Arkansas Business Journal, Top 12 of Ones to Watch by Celebrate Magazine in 2017, the Rodney Momon Award recipient, Paul Harris Fellow, and included in the "30 under 30" 2016 list of Top Minority-Owned Businesses. He has been featured and contributed to several research articles, podcasts, and book chapters around building inclusion and engagement within organizations and communities.

Today he is known as Dr. "Bowtie Todd," an inspirational educator, trainer, consultant, motivational speaker, and life coach. He is a proud husband, author, servant leader, educator, and conversationalist who believes in his philosophy "bowtie" it all together, serve and simply be a gift unto the world!



MAX MILDER

Director, Educational Advisory Board (EAB)

Max Milder is a researcher at EAB specializing in continuing and online education as well as academic affairs. As a Director, he leads EAB's organizational design work for online education and recent research on employer and industry partnerships. He also leads EAB's partnership with REACH Inc. to provide local DC students with high-impact college and career pathway mentorship.

Prior to coming to EAB, Max was a middle school special education teacher and soccer coach. Max earned a BA in Political Science cum laude from Clark University. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree, also from Clark University. On most days, you can find him at a soccer match or watching one on TV.

SUPPORT THIS YEAR'S PHILANTHROPIES!



Freedom Readers

INSPIRING TODAY'S YOUTH ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Freedom Readers is an after school and summer literacy program that was designed and implemented to support families in low-income areas as they assisted their children in achieving their academic goals in reading. In the beginning, twenty students in grades kindergarten through fifth were enrolled on a first come-first served basis. The year the organization was founded, there were two Freedom Readers sites offering services to twenty children. In 10 years of operation, we've expanded to 20 sites in three counties. Each of these sites offers three sessions each year: spring, summer, and fall, each lasting approximately 8-10 weeks. As many as twenty adults work one-to-one with scholars as literacy tutors at each site.

Literacy volunteers or tutors are trained by professionals such as university literacy professors and doctoral students on topics such as finding the appropriate book, keeping the scholar focused and engaged, ways to teach reading. It's important to note that our mission is to improve reading skills, not usurp the role of the classroom teacher whose job it is to teach the child to read. We provide a space where children can practice their developing literacy skills. In this sense, we see ourselves as the classroom teacher's power booster. Most schools ask parents to read with their children for 20 minutes each evening because we get better at what we practice. Schools understand what a recent analysis of 174,000 PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) scores revealed. The study showed that "a student's level of reading engagement was more highly correlated with their reading achievement than their socioeconomic status, gender, family structure, or time spent on homework. In fact, students with the lowest socioeconomic background but high reading engagement scored better than students with the highest socioeconomic background but low reading engagement." It is also true that many families living in low-income communities may not have the luxury of reading with their children for 15-20 minutes each day for a variety of reasons. The Freedom Readers program stands in the gap for these families one afternoon each week and sends children home with books to build their home libraries. We intend to make the discovery and exploration of these high-interest books so appealing that students will be drawn to spend time reading every day that they eat.



Click on the Amazon Wish List or Scan the QR Code below to donate to Fostering Hope!



Fostering Hope was established in 2004 by citizens who saw a need to assist some of the most vulnerable children in our community, the children residing in our local foster care system. Over the past years, we have grown and we are continuing to grow. We expanded our services and are pleased to be serving children referred by the American Red Cross who have lost homes to fires or other disasters, children placed by the Department of Social Services with relatives due to abuse and/or neglect, medically fragile children referred by local hospitals, as well as other children referred by local partner agencies. All of the children we serve have endured some form of physical, mental, or emotional abuse and/or neglect, or experienced a loss. These traumatizing events have left many of the children feeling angry, confused, and abandoned. Their young lives have been completely turned upside down due to circumstances beyond their control or understanding.

Our purpose at Fostering Hope is to help make these children's lives a little bit easier by making sure they have basic necessities such as clothing, shoes, hygiene items, and school supplies. We also try to lift their spirits and let them know the community cares by providing toys, books, homemade quilts, and more. Throughout the year we hold events for the children to attend including an Easter Party and our Annual Christmas Snowflake Carnival. With the help of our sponsors we also provide Christmas morning gifts through our Angel of Hope Christmas Gift Drive for over 900 children.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2021



DAY 1

Wednesday, May 26 | Virtual

11:00 – 11:10 am	WELCOME
11:10 – 11:15 am	PANEL INTRODUCTIONS
11:15 am – 12:45 pm	OPENING DEI PANEL: TURNING CONVERSATION INTO ACTION <i>Dr. Tia Stokes-Brown Vice President for DEI at Coastal Carolina University</i> <i>Dr. Tracy Bailey Founder & Executive Director of Freedom Readers</i> <i>Dr. Renard Harris Chief Diversity Officer at College of Charleston</i>
12:45 – 1:15 pm	BREAK LUNCH NETWORKING
1:15 – 2:15 pm	LEARNING SESSION # 1: EMPLOYER/SPONSOR SHOWCASE <i>Mike Rausch Fastenal Director of Recruiting</i> <i>Melissa Van Wey T-Mobile Talent Scout</i>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	BREAK
2:30 – 3:30 pm	SPEAKER: 2021 JOB MARKET AND BEYOND <i>Max Milder Educational Advisory Board (EAB) Director</i>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	LEARNING SESSION #2: CAREERSHIFT <i>Val Matta CareerShift, LLC Co-Owner & Vice President of Business Development</i>
4:00 – 4:15 pm	CLOSING <i>South Carolina Career Development Association</i>
4:15 – 5:00 pm	NETWORKING
Evening	HOTEL ROOM CHECK-IN FREE TIME

DAY 2

Thursday, May 27 | Virtual & In-Person

8:00 – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST & CONFERENCE CHECK-IN
9:00 – 10:00 am	TEAM BUILDER: COACH K: KE-SHEE-YA <i>Keshia Colleton Founder of Melanin-Muscles-Mascara FiT Club</i>
10:00 – 11:00 am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LOVE IS GREATER THAN HATE <i>Chris Singleton Former Pro-Baseball Player, Inspirational Speaker</i>
11:00 – 11:30 am	LEARNING SESSION #3: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT <i>Jim Allison SCACE President, Executive Director of College of Charleston Career Center</i>
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	LUNCH AND BOARD MEETING
12:30 – 1:30 pm	WELLNESS TEAM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY <i>Dr. Lee Carter LiveWell Office Director, Coastal Carolina University</i>
1:30 – 2:45 pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FROM DIVERSITY TO INCLUSION <i>Dr. Todd "Bowtie" Jenkins Bowtie Leadership & Development, Inc. Founder & CEO</i>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	BREAK
3:00 – 3:45 pm	LEARNING SESSION #4: GROWING WITH GOOGLE - DIGITAL SKILL BUILDING & THE IMPACT ON JOB READINESS <i>Dr. Flavia Eldemire Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Allen University</i> <i>Dr. Joseph Ray Counselor, Allen University</i> <i>Mrs. Sharon Bland-Davis Placement Coordinator, Allen University</i>
3:45 – 4:00 pm	CLOSING <i>Karen Riordan President & CEO of Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce</i> <i>Jim Allison SCACE President, Executive Director of College of Charleston Career Center</i>