



**BUILDING BRIDGES,
CREATING CHANGE**

**Arkansas State University
Mid-South**



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

MID-SOUTH



Official Conference Manual & Itinerary

Friday, April 26th - 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

DEVELOP, ENGAGE, EMPOWER, & PREPARE

Building Bridges, Creating Change

The Men of Color Conference aims to empower young men of color pursuing studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) fields by fostering a supportive environment that is integral to academic excellence, personal growth, and professional advancement.

Through a series of workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the conference will equip participants with the necessary tools, resources, and mentorship to thrive academically and succeed in their chosen careers.

By addressing the unique challenges faced by men of color in higher education and STEAM industries, the conference strives to cultivate a community of scholars who are prepared to excel academically, contribute meaningfully to their respective fields, and positively impact society as social entrepreneurs and innovators.

2024 Conference Itinerary

Friday, April 26th

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM

Coffee Connections: Breakfast & Networking
Steven Randle, Facilitator

10:20 AM - 10:40 AM

Opening Session & Inspirational Message
Deeneaus Polk, Facilitator

10:50 AM - 11:40 AM

Discovering the Soundtrack to Your Community
Phillip Rollins, Owner/DJ-OffBeat Records

11:50 AM - 1:00 PM

Empowering Voices: Men of Color Around the World
Panel Luncheon

1:10 PM - 2:00 PM

Your Blueprint, Your Grind
Rod Singleton, Cybersecurity Expert

2:10 PM - 3:00 PM

Closing Session: Facilitated Discussion

MEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

SPECIAL GUESTS



Phillip Rollins
Owner/DJ (OffBeat)



Marlin Monroe Williford
Musician



Rob Marshall
Actor/Model



Lukas Lyle
Model/Coach



Rod Singleton
Cybersecurity Expert

Opening Plenary Session

“Building Bridges, Creating Change” Arkansas State University Mid-South

Opening Session
Men of Color Conference 2024

Friday, April 26th, 2024
10:20 AM • Magruder Hall Room 108

Conference Welcome	Deeneaus Polk <i>Conference Steering Team Founder - 3LEVATE</i>
University Greetings	Dr. Debra West <i>Chancellor of Arkansas State University Mid-South</i>
Municipal Greetings	Marco McClendon <i>Mayor - City of West Memphis West Memphis, Arkansas</i>
Conference Overview	Deeneaus Polk <i>Conference Steering Team Founder - 3LEVATE</i>
Keynote Session.....	Dr. Corey Wiggins <i>Federal Co-Chair Delta Regional Authority</i>

Workshop & Panel Topics

Discovering the Soundtrack to Your Community
Facilitator: Phillip Rollins, Owner of OffBeat Records

Empowering Voices: Men of Color Heard Around the World
Guest Panelist: Lukas Lyle, Rob Marshall, & Marlin Monroe Williford

Your Blueprint, Your Grind
Facilitator: Rod Singleton, Cybersecurity Expert



Dr. Corey Wiggins

Federal Co.-Chair, Delta Regional Authority

Dr. Corey Wiggins was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden on December 15, 2021, to serve as the fourth Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority; and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on March 11, 2022.

A native of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, Chairman Wiggins brings a diverse set of career experiences that include working in academia, state government, nonprofit, and private sectors. He has focused on creating equitable opportunities through systems and public policy change.

Growing up in rural Mississippi, Dr. Corey Wiggins is driven by a mission to serve the community. This mission has served as a guiding principle as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. Over his diverse career, Dr. Wiggins has focused on creating equitable opportunities. Previously, Dr. Wiggins served as Senior Vice President of Policy at Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union. He also served as Director of the Hope Policy Institute, where he focused on strengthening communities, building assets, and improving lives in economically distressed parts of the Mid-South. He has served as a public policy professional as a Barbara Jordan Health Policy Fellow in the United States Senate, and as a policy analyst for the Mississippi State Legislature. Dr. Wiggins has also held the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management at Jackson State University.

Dr. Wiggins completed his undergraduate studies at Alcorn State University. He received a Master of Science in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Policy and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Additionally, he has a certificate of nonprofit leadership from Boston College. Dr. Wiggins has also furthered his training through fellowships with the Kaiser Family Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

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**Thank you for attending the 2024
Men of Color Conference!**

**Tell us what you think of the conference!
Follow this QR code to take a short survey!**

