



RUST COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RUST COLLEGE ANNOUNCES 156TH COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS – President Ivy R. Taylor is pleased to announce that New York Times Best Selling Author and Chair of Princeton’s Department of African American Studies Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr. will deliver Rust College’s 156th Commencement address on the lawn of the McCoy Administration building in Holly Springs, Mississippi, on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

One of the nation’s most prominent scholars, Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr. is an author, political commentator, public intellectual and passionate educator who examines the complex dynamics of the American experience. His writings, including *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, and his most recent, the New York Times bestseller, *Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for our Own*, takes a wide look at Black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States and the challenges we face as a democracy. In his writing and speaking, Glaude is an American critic in the tradition of James Baldwin and Ralph Waldo Emerson, confronting history and bringing our nation’s complexities, vulnerabilities, and hope into full view.

Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton. He is also on the Morehouse College Board of Trustees. He frequently appears in the media, as a columnist for TIME Magazine and as an MSNBC contributor on programs like Morning Joe and Deadline Whitehouse with Nicolle Wallace. He regularly appears on Meet the Press on Sundays. Glaude also hosts Princeton's AAS podcast, a conversation around the field of African American Studies and the Black experience in the 21st century.

A highly accomplished and respected scholar of religion, Glaude is a former president of the American Academy of Religion. His books on religion and philosophy include *An Uncommon Faith: A Pragmatic Approach to the Study of African American Religion*, *African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction*, and *Exodus! Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America*, which was awarded the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize.

Some like to describe Glaude as the quintessential Morehouse man, having left his home in Moss Point, Mississippi at age 16 to begin studies at the HBCU and alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He holds a master's degree in African American Studies from Temple University and a Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University.

Eighty seven undergraduate students will receive their degrees from Rust College. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m., on the front lawn of the McCoy Administration Building.

The Senior Service of Blessing and Consecration will be held, Friday, April 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. The Commencement Ceremony will be live streamed for those unable to attend in-person. Masks and socially distanced seating will be required.

Mariah Medina, 2021-2022 SGA President, will deliver the Student Government Association Presidential Address. In her second in-person commencement celebration since taking the helm as the College's 12th President, Dr. Ivy R. Taylor has expressed her excitement and has worked tirelessly to ensure a memorable event for Rust graduates.

Rust College graduates are wished much success as they are equipped to persevere and succeed in their future endeavors. Draped in new beginnings for Rust College and our graduates, we invite the family and friends of Rust College to join us in-person or virtually, in celebrating the accomplishments of these students as they have their degrees conferred upon them in-person.

YouTube: RustCollege
Facebook: @rcbearcats1866
TV (local): RCTV2
Simulcast: Rust College Radio Station WURC 88.1 FM
Website: www.rustcollege.edu

About Rust College

Rust College is the oldest most prestigious historically black college in Mississippi founded in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Offering degree programs in business, education, humanities, science and mathematics, and social science. Rust College equips and inspires students for excellence and service in their communities and throughout the world. Located in Holly Springs, MS, just 35 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915 or visit www.rustcollege.edu.

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