

HOODING CEREMONY FOR THE  
*Doctorate in  
Professional Leadership*



Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
5:30 p.m.  
Converse University  
University Center of Greenville



# Doctorate in Professional Leadership Hoarding Ceremony | May 14, 2024

Call to Order ..... Dr. Lienne Medford  
*Dean of The Graduate School*

Welcome ..... Dr. Boone J. Hopkins  
*University President*

Recognition of Committee Members  
and Special Guests ..... Dr. Joe Wilferth  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Hoarding of Candidates.....Leadership Faculty  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
*Director of Master in Management Program*

Dr. Lee Givins  
*Chair, Leadership Studies*

Dr. Jack Knipe  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Jeff Martin  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Lienne Medford  
*Professor*

Presentation of Thomas McDaniel Award.....Dr. Medford  
for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

Cohort Presentations..... Candidate Representatives

Reflections and Farewell ..... Dr. Martin

*Honor Cords may be worn by candidates with their regalia. Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education, is signified by a green and purple cord. Phi Kappa Phi, an Interdisciplinary National Honor Society, is signified by a gold and navy cord.*

## **Professional Leadership Faculty**

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

Dr. Lee Givins

Dr. Jack Knipe

Dr. Jeff Martin

Dr. Lienne Medford

## **Faculty Teaching Leadership Courses**

Dr. Elena Ghionis

Dr. James Hartman

Dr. Ray Royalty

## **Converse Faculty & Staff Serving on Committees**

Dr. Tori Good

Dr. Morgan Strickland

## **Outside Committee Members**

Mr. Greg Able

Dr. Cindy Alsip

Dr. Selena Blair

Dr. David Case

Dr. Katy Cassell

Dr. Tony Cauthen

Dr. Erin Davis

Dr. Roger Depra

Dr. Bernard Frost

Dr. John A. Harrill

Dr. Shirley Sealy

Dr. Timothy Scipio

Dr. Vincent Scott Taylor

Dr. Catherine Smith

Dr. Tomikia Whitmire

Dr. Roger Williams

## **McDaniel Award Committee Members**

Dr. Jeff Howard

Dr. Tom McDaniel

Dr. Jayne Reuben

# Candidates for the Professional Leadership Doctoral Degree

**Emily Faye Brashier**

Spartanburg, South Carolina

BA, Marshall University

MEd, Liberty University

Dissertation: *Soft Skill Development in Medical School and Success in Residency: A Phenomenological Research Study*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair

Dr. Lienne Medford

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

**Satteria Williams Broomfield**

Fairfax, South Carolina

BA, Wofford College

MEd, Converse University

MEd, Southern Wesleyan University

Dissertation: *Examining Gender Equity, the Impact of Leadership Development, and Leadership Style on Female Assistant Principals Aspiring to Become High School Principals*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

Dr. Shirley Sealy

**Teresa Goins Curvin**

Cleveland, Tennessee

BS, University of Tennessee

MEd, Lee University

AAS, Paducah Community College

Dissertation: *Women Engineers: How Golf Affects Their Careers*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

Dr. Jack Knipe

**Victoria Lynn Garrett**  
BA, Converse College  
MAT, Converse College

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Dissertation: *The Correlation Between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Academic Success for First-Generation Undergraduates Enrolled in Private Four-Year Institutions in South Carolina*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair  
Dr. Morgan Strickland  
Dr. Selena Blair

**Megan Rains Georgion**

Spartanburg, South Carolina

BA, University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
MEd, Northeastern University

Dissertation: *An Exploration of Millennial Employee Retention and Attrition in Post-Pandemic Higher Education*

Committee Members:

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam, chair  
Dr. Jeff Martin  
Dr. Tori Good

**Meirav Ly Goldhour**

Jerusalem, Israel

BDes, The College of Management Academic Studies  
MFA, University of Georgia

Dissertation: *The Impact of Interior Design on Emotional and Cognitive Well-being in Higher Education*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair  
Dr. Lienne Medford  
Dr. Katy Cassell  
Dr. Catherine Smith

**Matthew Kermit Hammett**

Moore, South Carolina

BA, Lander University

MEd, Clemson University

*Dissertation: Self-Care and Institutional Support for the Title IX Administrator Through the Framework of Servant Leadership: Navigating Burnout During These Precarious Times in Higher Education*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

Dr. Tony Cauthen

**Gary Lee Hazelwood**

Spartanburg, South Carolina

BA, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

MEd, University of Texas at Tyler

*Dissertation: Optimizing Return to Play: A Study of Leadership and Knowledge Management in Sports Medicine*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair

Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam

Dr. John A. Harrill

**Betsy Van Jura Hollar**

Greenville, South Carolina

BA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

MAT, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Dissertation: A Correlational Study Exploring Knowledge Management Theory and Strategic Planning Among South Carolina's K-12 Principals*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair

Dr. Jeff Martin

Dr. Cindy Alsip

**Stacie Leigh Howell**

Inman, South Carolina

BS, Western Carolina University

MAT, Converse College

*Dissertation: A Qualitative Study of Parental Advocacy in Special Education*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair

Dr. Elena Ghionis

Dr. Timothy Scipio

**Kala Marie Hudson**

Spartanburg, South Carolina

BA, North Greenville University

MLIS, University of South Carolina

*Dissertation: The Effects of LGBTQ+ Youth Disclosure on College Choice and Student Financial Aid Access*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lienne Medford, chair

Dr. Jack Knipe

Dr. Selena Blair

**Glenn Zenny McGinnis Jr.**

Inman, South Carolina

BS, Western Carolina University

MA, Appalachian State University

*Dissertation: An Analysis of Youth Activities in Relation to Development of K-12 Leaders*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair

Dr. James Hartman

Dr. Vincent Scott Taylor



**Dione V. Morris**  
BM, Converse College  
MBA, Webster University  
EdS, Converse College

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dissertation: *The Affects of eLearning and Virtual Instruction in Upstate South Carolina Title I School Districts*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
Dr. Erin Davis

**Shakara Denise Morrison-Shuford** Spartanburg, South Carolina  
BA, Wofford College  
MEd, Elon University  
MSA, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dissertation: *Differentiated Onboarding: Anticipating Teacher Preparedness at All Levels*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lee Givins, chair  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
Dr. Tomikia Whitmire

**Lawan Nicole Neely**  
BS, Anderson University  
MA, Webster University  
MAT, Clemson University

Greer, South Carolina

Dissertation: *Adaptive Leadership Strategies for K-12 Stakeholders in Response to Covid-19, Creating a New Epistemology in Education*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lienne Medford, chair  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
Dr. David Case

**Zachary Len Nicks**

Greer, South Carolina

BS, Clemson University  
MAT, Clemson University

Dissertation: *School Transitions and Maslow's Hierarchy: An Examination of Deficiency Needs Being Satisfied During the Transition to a New School*

Committee Members:

Dr. Lienne Medford, chair  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
Mr. Greg Able

**Jessica Linneth Rodríguez-Higgins**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

BS, Temple University  
MEd, Eastern University

Dissertation: *Transformational Mentorship Driving Collaborative Development in High School Teachers*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair  
Dr. Keshia Jackson Gilliam  
Dr. Bernard Frost

**Yesenia Ruiz**

Cali, Colombia

BBA-HCM, Anderson University  
MOL, Anderson University

Dissertation: *The Strength of the Relationship Between the Family Medicine Program Director and Program Coordinator and the Impact on Residents' Well-Being*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair  
Dr. Jack Knipe  
Dr. Ray Royalty

**Dotan Israel Shvorin**

BSc, Ruppin Academy  
MS, Clemson University  
PhD, Clemson University

Kibbutz Eyal, Israel

Dissertation: *Understanding the Linkage of Leadership Profile, Style, and Culture within Healthcare Organization, Based on P.G. Northouse, R. Marion, M. DePree, and J.B. Peterson Ideologies*

Committee Members:

Dr. Jeff Martin, chair  
Dr. Lienne Medford  
Dr. Roger Depra

---

Our graduate and doctoral students are innovative leaders, and creative thinkers who are ready for the next step in their professional journey.

Learn more!  
[converse.edu/graduate](https://converse.edu/graduate)

