

# **HENRY N. TISDALE, PH.D., M.A., M.ED., B.S.**

## **PRESIDENT**

### **CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY**

#### **ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**

A native of Kingstree, South Carolina and a 1965 magna cum laude graduate of Claflin University, Dr. Tisdale returned to his alma mater as its eighth president in 1994.

Described as a high energy and visionary president, Dr. Tisdale, in the tradition of Claflin's presidents, has been a servant leader while also overseeing tremendous growth in all areas of the University's campus and academic endeavors. During his 20 years as president, Dr. Tisdale's reputation for accomplishment, generating momentum, demonstrating commitment and his strategic approach to advancing Claflin have established him as a prominent influence in higher education.



Dr. Tisdale's inaugural pledge to place Claflin University among the premier liberal arts institutions in America was achieved when in August 2008, Forbes.com listed the University as the top Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the country and ranked Claflin in the top four percent nationally in their first-ever rankings of "America's Best Colleges." *U.S. News and World Report's "Guidebook to America's Best Colleges"* has included Claflin for 13 consecutive years in the publication's "Top Tier" rankings among comprehensive baccalaureate granting institutions in the South.

In its 2011 ranking, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Claflin as a #1 Best Buy in its "Great Schools at Great Prices" category among colleges in the Southern region. Claflin is also ranked #2 in annual alumni giving among Top Tier colleges in the South and #1 among all Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and #8 among best Black colleges. Claflin continues to expand its exposure and received two new rankings in 2010. The Atlanta Post, a highly respected news source for African-Americans, ranked Claflin as the # 8 Historically Black College or University in the country. Claflin University was also ranked # 7 among 309 baccalaureate colleges and universities in the nation by Washington Monthly.

Other academic accomplishments under Dr. Tisdale's tenure consist of: an enhanced and increased enrollment, by 86%; the addition of new academic majors that include Mass Communications, Criminal Justice, Digital Art, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, the Master of Science in Biotechnology, the Master of Business Administration and Master of Education in Educational Studies; national accreditation for Business Administration, Teacher Education, Music and Chemistry. Claflin's historic 50-acre campus has been completely transformed with many new buildings and facilities. These include the Living and Learning Center, the Student Residential Center, Kleist Hall, the University Dining Center, the Music Center, and the Molecular Science Research Center. Picturesque landscaping includes Legacy Plaza and the award winning campus entrances which have enhanced the University's classic architectural design and layout. Numerous buildings, throughout the campus, have been extensively renovated or significantly restored and upgraded. Claflin, once again, offers a place of worship with the construction, in 2007, of the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. The campus property continues to expand through acquisitions which include the Russell Street Campus.



## **DR. TISDALE'S BACKGROUND IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

From 1987 to 1994, Dr. Tisdale served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware.

From 1986 to 1987, he served as Assistant Academic Dean for Administration, Planning and Information Management at Delaware State University.

In 1985, he was selected by the American Council on Education (ACE), Center for Leadership Development in Washington, DC to serve as an ACE Fellow in Academic Administration. Dr. Tisdale served a full academic year in a mentor/internship relationship with Dr. E. A. Trabant, president, of the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

During his 24-year tenure at Delaware State University, Dr. Tisdale served in several other capacities. These include Assistant Director of Institutional Research and Planning 1978 – 1985; Professor of Mathematics, 1969 – 1985; and Instructor, Summer Engineering Institute 1978 – 1985. Prior to these positions in higher education, he taught mathematics in the Philadelphia School System, 1965 – 1969.

Dr. Tisdale graduated magna cum laude from Claflin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics (1965). At Temple University, he was awarded a Master of Education degree in Mathematics (1967) then a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from Dartmouth College (1975). This was followed by a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mathematics from Dartmouth College (1978). He received Honorary Doctorate degrees from South Carolina State University (2004) and Hofstra University (2009).

## **DR. TISDALE'S AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND TITLES**

Throughout his career, Dr. Tisdale has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. In September 2008, the town of Kingstree, in recognition of the extraordinary achievements of their native son, erected a lasting tribute, six highway markers proclaiming Kingstree, South Carolina the “Home of Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, The Eighth President of Claflin University.” Dr. Tisdale’s other recent honors include the 2008 CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District III Chief Executive Leadership Award, the 2007 Milliken Medal of Quality Award, 2007 BellSouth Honoree, the I. DeQuincey Newman Humanitarian Award, the NAFEO (National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education) Distinguished Alumni Award, Who’s Who Among Black Americans and the NAACP Educator of the Year Award.

Over the years, Dr. Tisdale served on many committees, councils, boards and task forces at both the state and national levels. Additionally, he has published and presented widely in areas of probability theory and issues in higher education.

Dr. Tisdale is a member of the American Council on Education Commission on Effective Leadership, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Council of Presidents, the HBCU-ETS Steering Committee, Williamsburg County Public School Foundation Board and the National Advisory Board of the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. He is a member of the Claflin University National Alumni Association, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Orangeburg Rotary Club, and Trinity United Methodist Church.

Henry N. Tisdale and his wife, Alice Carson Tisdale, have two children, Danica C. Tisdale Fisher, Ph.D. and Brandon Keith Tisdale. They also are the grandparents of Asa Toure Fisher.