



# GET COMFORTABLE BEING UNCOMFORTABLE

## College Presidents Talk About the First Six Weeks of School for Students and Faculty of Color and First Gen

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 • 1:00 PST, 2:00 MST, 3:00 CST, 4:00 EST



**Dr. Ryan Ross**

*Assoc. V. Chancellor Student Affairs, Equity, & Inclusion  
Colorado Community College System*

An educator, speaker, and actualization coach, Dr. Ross is committed to access, equity, and the development of leaders. For Ryan's professional and community contributions, he was recognized as "Denver's Role Model for Inclusiveness." After fourteen years of educational work, Ross transitioned from executive leadership at the Community College of Denver to become Regional Manager for Mobilization for the American Petroleum Institute. There, he is focused on STEM awareness in students and building workforce opportunities in the energy industry for women, minorities, and veterans.



**Dr. Annette Parker**

*President, South Central College, Minnesota State*

President of Minnesota's South Central College, with campuses in North Mankato and Faribault, Parker has served on President Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee. As a member of a National Academy of Science panel, she's providing guidance to reauthorize CTE funding offered by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. As a student at Lansing Community College, she started the campus' first VICA chapter (now SkillsUSA) as a tool for success. As a teacher and advisor, Parker fielded medal-winning SkillsUSA competitors. She credits much of her success to SkillsUSA.



**Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston**

*President, Norfolk State University*

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston is a professional in higher education with over 30 years' experience impacting the success of hundreds of thousands of collegiate scholars. Dr. Adams-Gaston is committed to building meaningful, productive relationships that lay the foundation for collaboration, community-building, progress and success. Dr. J upholds an achievement-oriented approach to seeking excellence producing genuine and robust support for programs and efforts to advance an academic community in the areas of diversity and inclusion.



**Dr. Miles Davis**

*President, Linfield University*

Davis is the first college president to come out of The PhD Project, a network that helps members of underrepresented communities attain doctorates and become leaders in higher education. Davis is an authority on entrepreneurship whose most recent work focuses on integrity, values, and principles in the business world, as well as faith-based entrepreneurship. He helps organizations manage cultural and structural changes, strategic planning, leadership development and strategic growth initiatives.



**Dr. E. LaBrent Chrite**

*President, Bethune-Cookman University*

Dr. E. LaBrent Chrite is the seventh president of Bethune-Cookman University. He previously served as dean at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business, and dean at Montclair State University. Chrite is an expert on how to build individual and institutional economic capacities in challenging emerging markets around the world. Dr. Chrite has taught strategic management, leadership and international business to students and executives at universities across the globe.



**Dr. Michael Torrence**

*President, Motlow State College*

Dr. Torrence is the seventh president of Motlow State, which has campuses in Smyrna, Tullahoma, McMinnville and Fayetteville. Prior to joining the administration at Motlow State, he served as the assistant vice president of Academic Affairs at Volunteer State Community College. Torrence comes to WGU Tennessee's Advisory Board with nearly 23 years of teaching experience and 11 years of experience in higher education.

