

The College of Education & Human Development and the
Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence present the

33rd Annual

**BENJAMIN E.
MAYS
LECTURE**

February 8, 2022
6:30 p.m.

“Excellence as Struggle: Truth, Empathy and Courage in Higher Education”

PROGRAM

<i>Welcome</i>	Dr. Brian Williams, Director Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence College of Education & Human Development, Georgia State University
<i>University Greetings</i>	Dr. M. Brian Blake President, Georgia State University
<i>College Greetings</i>	Dr. Paul Alberto, Dean and Regents' Professor College of Education & Human Development, Georgia State University
<i>Introduction</i>	Dr. Joyce King, Benjamin E. Mays Endowed Chair for Urban Teaching, Learning and Leadership College of Education & Human Development, Georgia State University
<i>Speaker</i>	Dr. William F. Tate IV President, Louisiana State University
<i>Q&A</i>	<i>Facilitated by Dr. Joyce King</i>
<i>Closing & Special Presentation</i>	Dr. Brian Williams and the Family of the late Dr. Alonzo A. Crim

WELCOME FROM DR. PAUL ALBERTO, DEAN



On behalf of Georgia State University's College of Education & Human Development, I'd like to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture. This lecture series is another example of the commitment our college and our Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence have made to improve education for all students across the metro-Atlanta area.

Today's event comes as we as a nation strive for important changes to eliminate racism across our institutions. For our part, the College of Education & Human Development is providing opportunities for conversations among students, faculty and staff to light the path forward in ensuring our college is an inclusive and equitable place to work and learn. The 2022 Mays Lecture is one part of that conversation, offering a unique perspective and encouraging us to think through what it means to support urban education today. I look forward to hearing Dr. Tate's presentation and how his research and scholarship can guide us toward a better urban educational landscape.

WELCOME FROM DR. BRIAN WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 33rd Annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture hosted by the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence. For more than a quarter of a century, this event has served as a unique opportunity to celebrate excellence in urban education. The Mays Lecture is a gathering space for the Community of Believers, the group of individuals charged by Dr. Crim to work collaboratively toward the goal of excellence in urban education for all children. As a participant in tonight's event, I encourage you to take this opportunity to not only learn from our speaker but also connect with other members of the educational community. It is my sincere hope that tonight's program and the words of Dr. William F. Tate IV will inspire you to think in new ways about urban education and the ways in which we might work collectively to better serve our children.

ABOUT THE BENJAMIN E. MAYS LECTURE

“It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy of life lies in having no goal to reach.” – Benjamin E. Mays

In the spring of 1988, the Benjamin E. Mays Chair of Urban Educational Leadership was approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and established in the former College of Education at Georgia State University. Its goal was and continues to be the improvement of the quality of educational institutions in urban areas of the country, with special emphasis on the problems faced by the leadership of large city school districts.

The founding holder of the Chair, Dr. Alonzo A. Crim, initiated the organization and sponsorship of the annual Benjamin E. Mays Memorial Lecture Series. It began in 1989 with Dr. Charles V. Willie, social scholar at Harvard University, and has continued to this year’s lecturer. By continuing to bring nationally prominent educators to Atlanta, each symposium, conference and lecture encourages the discussion of issues facing urban educational leaders. This program not only honors the memory of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, but also promotes his philosophy of educational excellence for those typically least served by society.

DR. JOYCE KING, BENJAMIN E. MAYS ENDOWED CHAIR FOR URBAN TEACHING, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP



Dr. Joyce E. King holds the Benjamin Mays Endowed Chair in Urban Teaching, Learning and Leadership at Georgia State University. She has served in senior academic affairs and faculty roles at both historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly white institutions (PWIs). Dr. King received a doctorate in the social foundations of education and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Stanford. She received Stanford’s Graduate School of Education Alumni Excellence in Education Award in 2018. The concepts of “dysconscious racism,” “diaspora literacy” and “heritage knowledge” are among her widely recognized contributions to the field of education. In addition to “Heritage Knowledge in the Curriculum: Retrieving an African Episteme” and her newest book, “We Be Lovin’ Black Children: Learning to Be Literate about the African Diaspora,” her publications include seven other books and numerous refereed articles. She is past president of the American Educational Research Association and a member of the National African American Reparations Commission.

DR. WILLIAM F. TATE IV, GUEST SPEAKER



William F. Tate IV is the president of Louisiana State University and holds academic appointments in sociology, epidemiology, psychiatry and behavioral medicine, and population and public health. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Education and a past president and elected fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). His research program includes the study of the social determinants of STEM attainment, geospatial modeling of health, education and developmental outcomes, and social stratification. His book project entitled, “Research on Schools, Neighborhoods and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility,” reflects his interest in the geography of opportunity in metropolitan America. Tate’s research fellowships include serving as the Anna Julia Cooper Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow at the University of Maryland at College Park and a Ford Foundation Fellow at the University of Ghana. In 2010, he received a Presidential Citation from AERA for “his expansive vision of conceptual and methodological tools that can be recruited to address inequities in opportunities to learn.” In 2020, Tate was listed as one of the top 10 sociologists in the RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings reported in Education Next. In 2021, he received the SIG-Research Focus on Mathematics Education (AERA) Distinguished Scholar Award.

ABOUT THE ALONZO A. CRIM CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence was created in 1996 to create a city-wide laboratory in Atlanta for the development of excellence in urban education. Initially housed in the Department of Educational Policy Studies, the center was also created to extend the research that showed educational excellence was possible in urban settings, despite low family income levels or difficult community problems. Because it is in the heart of Atlanta's inner city, Georgia State University had the unique ability and responsibility to apply its diverse resources toward the solution of urban educational problems, to develop a national voice on pressing educational concerns and to be a viable academic option for students who were increasingly interested in learning about and addressing urban issues. In 2000, upon his death, the center was renamed after its first Mays chair holder, Dr. Alonzo A. Crim.

The center, housed in the College of Education & Human Development, works in partnership with other universities, school systems, parents, students, social agencies and community organizations to create and sustain excellence in urban educational environments. Its mission, guided by the legacies of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and Dr. Alonzo A. Crim, is to optimize the life opportunities of children and families in urban communities by ensuring the availability of a prosperous and equitable school environment.

NEXT UP: SOURCES CONFERENCE 2022

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence will host the 17th Annual Sources of Urban Educational Excellence Conference in October 2022 with pre-conference events happening the week before the conference.

The Sources Conference brings together educators, graduate students, activists, policy makers, artists, business and industry members, and community workers for a series of panels, presentations and discussions around creating excellent learning spaces and opportunities for all students. Explore the Sources Conferences website to see recordings of last year's conference presentations and find 2022 conference updates: crim.education.gsu.edu/2021-sources-conference.

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence's success is made possible through the generosity of our Community of Believers. If you would like to support the center's work, please make a donation at bit.ly/SupportTheCrimCenter.



THE 17TH ANNUAL

SOURCES OF
URBAN EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
CONFERENCE



SPECIAL THANKS

This year's virtual lecture was made possible by a generous donation from the Atlanta Film Society. The lecture's organizers would like to thank Chris Escobar, Atlanta Film Festival executive director, and his staff for their technical support and assistance.