



## Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

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**CHARLES McCLELLAND**

*Comissioner, Southwestern Athletic Conference*

### **ABOUT OUR GUEST**

Dr. Charles F. McClelland became the sixth Commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in 2018, overseeing a league with 12 member institutions across six states. Under his leadership, the conference expanded with the additions of Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman in 2020, bringing the total membership to 12. The SWAC now includes schools in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Florida, competing in 18 NCAA Division I sports.

McClelland has made significant strides in conference operations, including the acquisition of a new corporate office building to serve as the SWAC's headquarters. This modern facility houses over 40 offices and serves as the hub for conference meetings, multimedia content production, and the SWAC Digital Network.

In 2019, McClelland was appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee and in 2022, he became its chair for the 2023-24 season, making history as the first representative from an HBCU league to hold the position. The committee is responsible for selecting and seeding teams for the NCAA Tournament.

Before joining the SWAC, McClelland was Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics at Texas Southern University (TSU), where he initially

served as Director of Athletics from 2008 to 2015. At TSU, he oversaw 16 sports and made numerous facility upgrades, including the renovation of Durley Stadium and H&PE Arena. He secured a partnership with the Houston Dynamo soccer team, allowing TSU's football team to play in the state-of-the-art BBVA Compass Stadium starting in 2012.

McClelland focused on improving academic performance at TSU, raising the Athletics Department's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) from 29% in 2008 to 67% by the time of his departure. He also led the department to 25 championships over nine years, including the men's basketball team's first NCAA Tournament win in 2018.

Earlier in his career, McClelland was the Athletics Director at Prairie View A&M University, where he helped the football team achieve its first winning season in over 30 years and won 18 championships across various sports. McClelland received the prestigious AstroTurf Athletics Director of the Year Award in 2007.

A graduate of Prairie View A&M with a bachelor's degree in accounting, McClelland also holds an MBA and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration. He is involved in several organizations, including Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the Rotary Club of Birmingham. He is married to Ashlee McClelland and has three children.

***Monday, November 18, 2024  
4 PM at Tuomey Hall***