



Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

GARLAN GUDGER

Alabama State Senator

ABOUT OUR GUEST

A small business owner with a lifelong commitment to serving others, Garlan Gudger was unanimously elected by his colleagues to as the President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate, a position that gives him tremendous influence over the day-to-day operations of the body.

First elected to the Cullman City Council in 2004, he became its youngest member in history and held a seat for 14 years, the last 10 of which saw him serve as president. After tornadoes tore through Cullman in 2011, Gudger was responsible for a facade and streetscape improvement program that was credited with revitalizing its downtown economic center.

After winning a seat representing portions of Cullman, Marion, and Winston counties in the Alabama State Senate in 2018, Gudger quickly established himself as a leader and earned the Economic Development Association of Alabama's "Legislator of the Year" award for his efforts in

passing a groundbreaking package of industrial recruitment and job creation measures.

He was also presented with the "Chairman's Commendation" award by the Alabama Republican Party for passing a law that reflects his deeply conservative beliefs and requires "transgender" athletes in K-12 public schools to compete according to the sex listed on their original birth certificate.

Gudger and his wife, Heather, are the owners and operators of Southern Accents, an architectural salvage business founded by his father in 1969. Recognized as one of the top five architectural salvage companies in the nation, Alabama Magazine also awarded Southern Accents its "Best Antique Store in Alabama" honor for three consecutive years.

The Gudgers have two sons, Tripp and Pierce, and are members of Daystar Church, where they annually participate in mission trips to Uganda and other poverty-stricken areas around the world.

*Thursday, September 11, 2025
4 PM at Tuomey Hall*