



Founders' Day

CONVOCATION

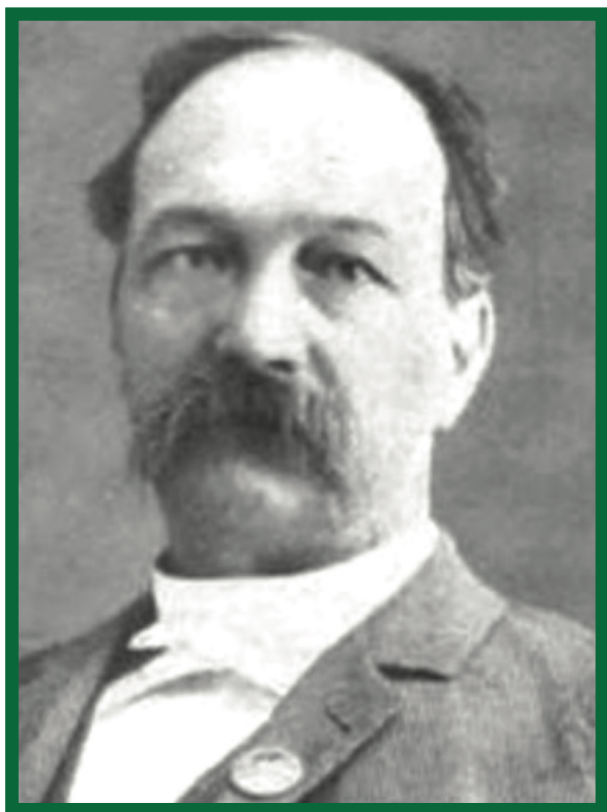
Thorobreds Leading for Impact

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 10 A.M.
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
DAVID H. BRADFORD HALL, CARL H. SMITH AUDITORIUM



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Founded 1886



DR. EDGAR ENOCH HUME

1875 – 1877
State Representative

1893 – 1910
KSU Board of Regents

1905 – 1909
Mayor of Frankfort



JOHN HENRY JACKSON

1886 – 1898
First President

1907 – 1910
Fourth President





Accreditation and Affiliations

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY IS ACCREDITED BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC) TO AWARD ASSOCIATE, BACCALAUREATE, MASTERS, AND DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE LEVEL DEGREES. KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ALSO MAY OFFER CREDENTIALS SUCH AS CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS AT APPROVED DEGREE LEVELS. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACCREDITATION OF KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY MAY BE DIRECTED IN WRITING TO THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AT 1866 SOUTHERN LANE, DECATUR, GA 30033-4097, BY CALLING (404) 679-4500, OR BY USING INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SACSCOC'S WEBSITE (WWW.SACSCOC.ORG).





Mission Statement

Provide transformative educational experiences to prepare graduates for making meaningful contributions to society.

Kentucky State University is a public, research-comprehensive, historically Black, 1890 land-grant institution.

Then & Now

FOUNDED IN MAY 1886, Kentucky State University formally opened on October 11, 1887.

1886	2025
President John Henry Jackson	President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
55 Students Enrolled	2,889 Students Enrolled
3 Faculty	102 Faculty
24 Acres	1,029 Acres
1 Diploma Offered: Normal School Certificate of Completion	69 degree programs: certificates in 28 disciplines, associate (two-year) degrees in two disciplines, baccalaureate (four-year) degrees in 22 disciplines, master's degrees in nine disciplines, and a doctoral degree in nursing practice





Board of Regents

MS. TAMMI DUKES, CHAIR
MR. EDWARD HATCHETT, ESQ., VICE CHAIR

MR. DONTRELL CHILDS, STUDENT REGENT
MR. EDWARD FIELDS, STAFF REGENT
MR. MATTHEW GRIMSHAW
MR. JASON MOSELEY
DR. CHARLES MOYER
DR. JAMES OBILODAN, FACULTY REGENT
MR. JONATHAN RABINOWITZ, ESQ.
MR. ROBERT RAMSEY, SR.
MS. JOAN STRINGER, ESQ.

Institutional Officers

DR. KOFFI C. AKAKPO – NINETEENTH PRESIDENT

DR. HEATHER L. BIGARD - Vice President of Finance and Administration/CFO
DR. MICHAEL D. DAILEY - Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
MR. MICHAEL R. DECOURCY - Vice President of External Relations and Institutional Advancement
DR. WENDY D. DIXIE - Vice President of Information Technology and Special Assistant to the President
MS. NICOLE M. SERGENT, ESQ. - General Counsel and Board Secretary





Presidential Symbols of Office



UNIVERSITY MACE

The mace is a club-shaped staff used as a symbol of authority. It was originally a weapon of the middle ages with a long handle, heavily weighted on the end. The heavy end became an iron ball as the sciences of war developed, and archers and other unmounted warriors used the mace as a hand arm. The mace was also used as a symbol of authority by some church officials, the British House of Commons, and the United States House of Representatives. Sergeants at arms, who were the guards of kings and other high officials, also carried maces. Even today, a gleaming white mace still rests on the table at meetings in many nations, symbolizing royal and legislative authority. Gradually, the mace gained a ceremonial character and today it is used during inaugurations, commencements and other formal processions. The Kentucky State University Mace is carried in by the Faculty Senate President.

RECTOR'S REGALIA

Since modern academic regalia evolved from the kinds of apparel worn by monks and students in the Middle Ages to keep warm in the castles and halls in which they studied, academic regalia remains symbolic of scholastic achievement. The regalia worn by Kentucky State University's president, is made of black tropical wool. It has green velvet panels and bars. The bars and panels are accented by antique gold cordings. Each sleeve has four chevrons. The sleeves are Akron style inlaid with Washington green. The hood is flat with a square bottom. It is embellished with Washington green satin lining and antique gold chiffon. It also has gold cording with green velvet.

CHAIN OF OFFICE

Each president of Kentucky State University wears the Chain of Office, also referred to as the livery and/or the presidential medallion, symbolizing the Office of the President. It is worn at formal academic occasions such as inaugurations, commencements, convocations, and Founders' Day. Kentucky State University's Chain of Office comprises a 3" diameter brass medallion with an antique finish. It is attached with a leaf banner bearing the title president and leaf clusters. The chain consists of curved banners depicting engravings of the names of all the official presidents of Kentucky State University and their years of service.





List of Presidents



JOHN HENRY JACKSON
1886 – 1898

JAMES EDWARD GIVENS
1898 – 1900

JAMES SHELTON HATHAWAY
1900 – 1907

JOHN HENRY JACKSON
1907 – 1910

JAMES SHELTON HATHAWAY
1910 – 1912

GREEN PINCKNEY RUSSELL
1912 – 1923

FRANCIS MARION WOOD
1923 – 1924

GREEN PINCKNEY RUSSELL
1924 – 1929

RUFUS B. ATWOOD
1929 – 1962

CARL MCCLELLAN HILL
1962 – 1975

WILLIAM A. BUTTS
1975 – 1982

RAYMOND M. BURSE
1982 – 1989

JOHN T. WOLFE, JR.
1990 – 1991

MARY L. SMITH
1991 – 1998

GEORGE W. REID
1998 – 2002

MARY EVANS SIAS
2004 – 2014

RAYMOND M. BURSE
2014 – 2016

KOFFI C. AKAKPO
2023 – PRESENT

M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN II
2017 – 2021





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Esteemed Members of the Class of 1975,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you on the momentous occasion of your 50th Reunion. We are thrilled to celebrate this significant milestone and eagerly anticipate your return for this year's Homecoming celebration and Founders' Day.

The Class of 1975 holds a special place in the history of Kentucky State University. Your time here has helped shape the rich legacy, community, and culture of our esteemed institution. We are so proud of the journey you have accomplished since your graduation day and hope this milestone celebration is a time for reflection, gratitude, and joy.

Fifty years ago, you walked across the stage with dreams in your hearts and a world of opportunity ahead. Since then, you have become leaders, innovators, mentors, and community pillars — each of you carrying forward the values and education instilled at KSU. Your achievements and contributions, both personal and professional, continue to inspire new generations of Thoroughbreds.

As we prepare for your return, we eagerly anticipate the rekindling of friendships, the sharing of cherished memories, and the celebration of all that you have achieved in the past five decades. Your presence during this Homecoming celebration is a powerful testament to the enduring spirit that binds our community together.

We hope you take great pride in how far you've come and the legacy you've helped to build. This reunion is not just a look back, it's a celebration of your lasting impact and an opportunity to continue shaping the future of Kentucky State University.

Once again, congratulations, Class of 1975! We honor you, we thank you, and we welcome you home.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Akakpo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
19th President



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Heritage

From its modest beginnings as a small normal school for the training of African American teachers, Kentucky State University has grown into a land-grant and liberal arts institution that prepares a diverse student population to compete in a multifaceted, ever-changing global society.

Kentucky State University began as an idea on October 15, 1885. The Commonwealth needed more normal schools to train African American teachers for employment in its Black elementary schools. On May 18, 1886, legislators authorized the school's creation, and the university was chartered as the State Normal School for Colored Persons, the second state-supported institution of higher learning in Kentucky.

During the euphoria of Frankfort's 1886 centennial celebration, when vivid recollections of the Civil War remained, the city's 4,000 residents were keenly interested in having the new institution located in Frankfort. Toward that end, the city donated \$1,500, a considerable amount in 1886 dollars, and a site on a scenic bluff overlooking the town. This united display of community enthusiasm and commitment secured the new college's place in Frankfort despite competition from several other cities.

Recitation Hall—now Jackson Hall—the college's first building, was erected in 1887. The new school opened on October 11, 1887, with three teachers, 55 students and John Henry Jackson as its first president.

Kentucky State became a land-grant college in 1890, and the departments of home economics, agriculture, and mechanics were added to the school's curriculum. The school produced its first graduating class of five students in the spring of that year.

As the school began to grow and change, so too did its moniker. In 1902, the name was changed to Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Persons. The name was changed again in 1926 to Kentucky State Industrial College for Colored Persons.

By 1929, most students had access to high school, leading then-President Rufus B. Atwood to discontinue the college's high school, which had been in operation since 1893.

Even so, Atwood's 33-year tenure was marked by dramatic institutional growth including the first modern yearbook, the first student newspaper, and most notably, by gaining accreditation for the institution. His administrative acuity and political acumen were necessary to position the university for growth during a period of marked social change, while avoiding fallout in the political town of Frankfort.

In 1938, the school was named Kentucky State College for Negroes and began focusing again on offering more traditional liberal arts education. The college notably gained full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools the following year.

The term "for Negroes" was dropped in 1952 when the school's name became merely Kentucky State College. In 1972, it became Kentucky State University and enrolled its first graduate students in the School of Public Affairs in 1973.

In the 53 years since then, more than 43 new structures or major building expansions have enhanced Kentucky State University's 914-acre campus, which includes a 311-acre agricultural research farm and a 306-acre environmental education center.

Kentucky State University, "The College on the Hill," is led by President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo. It is a public institution with an enrollment of approximately 2,838 students and 100 full-time faculty members. The university's diverse mix of faculty, staff, and students has made Kentucky State the most diverse public institution in the Commonwealth, and among the most diverse nationwide.





Past Founders' Day Speakers

1977 – Dr. William A Brown (1959)	2004 – Dr. Bailus Walker Jr. (1954)
1978 – Dr. Henry Cheaney (1936)	2005 – Dr. James C. Letton (1955)
1979 – Rev. Benjamin Baker	2006 – Mr. Patrick Beauchamp (1955)
1980 – Dr. Carl M. Hill	2007 – Mr. Lytle T. Davis (1955)
1982 – Dr. Rufus Barfield (1952)	2008 – Kimberly Reed Thompson, Esq. (1978)
1984 – Dr. Clifford Claiborne (1960)	2009 – Dr. Cuttie Bacon III (1963)
1985 – Dr. Ivan Cotman (1962)	2010 – Ms. Tish Norman (1995)
1986 – Mr. Roy E. Bussell Jr. (1970)	2011 – Dr. Earl Richardson
1987 – Dr. Bessie M. Lasley-Rhodes (1956)	2012 – Brigadier General Henry L. Huntley (1983)
1988 – Mrs. Brenda Blane (1967)	2013 – Rev. Zachary Royal (1982)
1989 – Mr. Thomas P. Lewis (1959)	2014 – Mrs. Joann James (1986)
1991 – Dr. Olivia Whyte Thomas (1972)	2015 – Judge Hubert Grimes (1975)
1992 – Senator Gerald A. Neal (1967)	2016 – Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq. (1968)
1993 – Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq. (1968)	2017 – Dr. M. Christopher Brown II
1994 – Mr. Kenneth “Sam” Harp (1977)	2018 – Rev. Cuttie W. Bacon IV (1987)
1995 – Dr. Herbert Ernest Olivera (1950)	2019 – Mr. Russell L. Drake
1996 – Mr. Benjamin F. Shobe (1941)	2020 – Combined with Commencement Convocation
1997 – Dr. Norman Maurice Rates (1947)	2021 – Dr. Corey Hicks (1995)
1998 – Mr. Adrian L. Wallace	2022 – Dr. Karen Townsend (1985)
2000 – Dr. Gerald W. Patton (1969)	2023 – Mr. Frederick Yeakey (2005)
2001 – Dr. Kevin W. Cosby	2024 – Ms. Stephanie Terry (1998)
2002 – Mr. Jaques J. Wigginton (1986)	2025 – Dr. Leonard Clemons (2009)

Note: Parenthetical year represents graduating class.





2025 Keynote Speaker Biography



Dr. Leonard Clemons is an accomplished higher education and community leader with hybrid experiences that bridge academia and student affairs to create thriving student experiences and success.

Within higher education, Dr. Clemons serves as Vice President for Student Affairs at Austin Peay State University. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Clemons earned his doctorate in higher education from the University of Miami and his Master of Science in adult and higher education from Northern Illinois University. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies from Kentucky State University, serves on multiple national academic associations and has delivered several regional presentations on student success strategies.

Dr. Clemons has more than 15 years of experience working within academic and student affairs structures at multiple universities. He has served in leadership positions that help drive student success and engagement that align with a curricular journey to create thriving student experiences. Some of his previous roles include: associate vice provost for student success at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the assistant dean of students at the University of Chicago; and assistant dean for student services at the University of Miami.

Dr. Clemons is passionate about higher education with engagement in many professional associations including American College Personnel Association Assessment (ACPA), Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors (AFA) and National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). His service spans into the community with time as a previous board member with United Way, and American Red Cross. Additionally, Dr. Clemons currently serves as a national board member with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to add in his previous services as Regional President within the organization. He is a recipient of numerous awards and honors.





2025 Founders' Day Convocation

DR. MICHAEL D. DAILEY '84
Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Presiding

****GOLDEN CLASS AND ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL**
"Musical Prelude"

Mr. Gordon Ford Jr. '19
Guest Organist

****ENTRANCE OF PRESIDIUM PLATFORM**

****THE SUMMONS TO CONVOCATION**

Dr. Patrese Nesbitt
Faculty Senate President
Assistant Professor of Exercise Science

****INVOCATION**

Rev. Leslie Wayne Whitlock
Pastor First Corinthian Baptist Church
Frankfort, KY

PROVOST REMARKS

Dr. Dailey '84
Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

STUDENT WELCOME

Ms. Amari J. Gilkey
96th Miss Kentucky State University
Mr. Robert Dorsey III
32nd Mister Kentucky State University

THE OCCASION

Ms. Tammi Dukes '92
Chair, Kentucky State University
Board of Regents

WELCOME TO FRANKFORT

Mr. Layne Wilkerson
Mayor of Frankfort, KY

THE HERITAGE ANTHEM
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
*(by James Weldon Johnson and
John Rosamond Johnson)*

Ms. Essence Kimbrough, Vocals
Ms. Kirstin Johnson, Alto Saxophone
Dr. Keith McCutchen, Piano





ALUMNI GREETINGS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Barry Johnson '94
KSUNAA President

JUBILEE GRAND MARCH

Mr. Michael R. DeCourcy
Vice President of Institutional Advancement
& External Relations

GOLDEN CLASS RESPONSE

Mr. Hubert Grimes '75

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Dailey '84
Mr. DeCourcy

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

"You Brought Me From a Mighty Long Way"

KSU Gospel Ensemble
Soloist - Dr. Sheryl Rae Reid '05
Mr. Gordon Ford Jr. '19

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Ms. Tish Norman '95
Vice President of KSUNAA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Leonard Clemons '09
Vice President for Student Affairs,
Austin Peay State University

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
President

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

"Total Praise"

KSU Gospel Ensemble
Mr. Gordon Ford Jr. '19

****CLOSING PRAYER**

Bishop Tiangelo Hill
Pastor First Baptist Church
Frankfort, KY

****THE ALMA MATER**

KSU Gospel Ensemble
Mr. Gordon Ford Jr. '19

POSTLUDE

Mr. Gordon Ford Jr. '19

****No walking or talking please.**





Golden Class of 1975

Betty J. Abrams
John J. Akapenkon
Neva Allen
Cheryl Anderson
Donald Anderson
James Van Johnson Ardsell
Artie T. Atkins
Steven L. Baldon
Johnetta Hall Barnett
Everett A. Bass
Nella L. Bass
Ronald D. Baynes
Glenora Catlett Beckham
Michael D. Beckham
Brenda F. Bell
Sue W. Bell
Ingrid C. Bennett
Nancy P. Bernard
Alijay Bettis
Alma A. Black
Debra Bonner
Shirley C. Bowers
Annette Whitfield Bridges
Robert T. Briscoe
Brendolyn G. Brister
Carolyn Broughton-White
Biraji L. Brown
Franetta Brown

Fredrick Brown
Ricky Lee Brown
Robert W. Brown
Ronald Leverne Brown
Kathryn M. Burns
Allen Burton
Frank D. Bush
Theodore W. Butler
Charles E. Cain
Collette White Caldwell
Clarence C. Calloway
Luther Calloway Jr.
Joseph A. Carroll
Calanthia Heard Carter
Courtney Lander Carter
Deborah Christian Carter
Glenora J. Catlett
Isaiah I. Cauthen
Marica A. Chaney
Ralph E. Clark
Marsha E. Clear
Nathan E. Cofield
Donna Cole
Mary L. Collins
Elsie A. Combs
Wanda Bridges Cox
Margaret Johnson Crawford
James Edward Crook





— *Golden Class of 1975 Continued*

Paul Cross
Merrily Crowe
Deborah Cruse
Mary E. Crutchfield
Carol Taylor Cunningham
Terri G. Daggett
Richard W. Dailey
Roland R. Dale
James E. Daniel
Barbara Diane McKee Davis
Diane Davis
Sheila R. Dick
Jerry O. Dillard
Ronald P. Dixon
Esteva Caise Draggs
Juliette Draine
James Drake
Marilyn D. Duke
Carl L. Espin
Edward Ray Evanoff
Gayle W. Faust
Robert W. Ferguson
Tommy C. Fields
Ronnie Fordham
Michael A. Founder
Jacqueline L. Gardner-Sparrow
David L. Garr
Barbara Gateskill
Michael E. George
Gregory Allen Graham
Wayne Allen Green

Fred A. Gregory Jr.
Keith L. Gregory
William E. Griffin
Hubert L. Grimes
Marcia Chaney Gross
Gregory C. Guice
Gary R. Harp
Linda Hawkins
Gary W. Henderson
Garland Higgins
Renee Hightower
Carolyn Hill
Margret Holiday-Crews
Wille Gales Hollyfield
Wanda R. Howard
Beecher Nathaniel Hudson Jr.
Jo Anna Hudson
Neva Hudson
Patricia S. Huffaker
Nancy F. Hughes
Linda Hurst
Francine Bradley Ison
David Jackson
Frank S. Jackson
Carole Jacobs
Eddie R. James
Richardo E. Jemine
Glenn S. Johnson
John R. Johnson
Margaret E. Johnson
Nana Marie Johnson





Roderick V. Johnson
Samuel M. Jones
Sherry Jones
Wanda J. Jones
Sharon Jones-Horton
Bradford Keith
Ruth Joanne Keyes
Cassandra Lenile Kidd
Roderick H. King
Darlene Kirtley
David L. LaMarr
Aquanella J. Lane
Vernell Denae Larkin
Jack B. Lasley
Felicia Yvette Lewis
Claudette Linder
Johnny K. Lloyd
Sandra C. Logan
David A. Lyons
Lorene Manning
Brenda A. Marshall
Dwight Marshall
Andrew L. Mason
Mary C. Mason
Charles E. McCauley
Walter McClain
Royce W. McKinney
Josephine E. McNulty
Amy A. Mefford
Jerome Melson
Margaret Y. Meneese
Anita Miller

Eva D. Miller
Ann V. Mitchell
Lou Ann Mitchell
Larry V. Montgomery
Mary L. Moore
Ron Moore
Ronald L. Mumphrey
Victoria Mundy
Ronnie Newby
Rick G. Newnam
Joseph O. Oerther
Franklin J. Oliver
Theresa G. Oliver
Bailey L. Orton
Wm. R. Outerbridge
Diana M. Parker
Marc L. Parmley
Kathy Oldham Peale
Patricia Norris Peavler
Douglass L. Pemberton
Louise D. Penix
Cherri L. Pettus
Brian Wesley Phillips
Varetta D. Phillips
Edward Jerry Philpot
Chairat Pimolwatana
Lucy M. Polk
Arthur Pryor
Adrienne M. Randall
George Randall
Marvin Rawls
Freda Reed





— *Golden Class of 1975 Continued*

Anthony Remson
Evelyn E. Reynolds
Ophelia S. Rowe
Victoria Leann Russell
Irene Wells Sample
Adriene L. Samuels
Elise F. Sandifer
Lee Santiago-GIV
Dorothy F. Schroeder
Barry C. Simms
Maragaret L. Smith
Marcia Merritt Smith
Michael G. Smith
Julia E. Soules
Marsha A. Standard
Claudette D. Stapleton
Cynthia L. Stephens
Glenn M. Stikes
Orbie E. Stone
Robert C. Stone
Richard E. Straight
Joyce Stringer
Harry P. Styles
Doris W. Swain
Samuel L. Swain
Constance E. Tandy
Hannah Thomas
Ophelia Rowe Thomas
Othello Thomas
Cynthia A. Thompson
Patrica A. Thurman
Louis M. Trice

Lillie A. Turner
David Vincent Wade
Janice L. Wade
Everylee M. Walton
Pleas M. Walton
Violet Jean Ware
Wanda H. Warren
LaVonne C. Washington
Ann E. Watkins
James Watkins
Mark Watson
Patricia J. Watson
Tony Webster
Charlene Reeder Welch
Gail B. Wells
Colbert White
Neville T. White
Ronald A. Whiteside
Darlene Williams
Nana Johnson Williams
Robert D. Williams
Will Wilson
Robert L. Woods
Jerry Wright



The Alma Mater

Lyrics by
Frederick Jarmon '43

Music Arrangement
Harriet N. Gibbons '45

HAIL TO OUR ALMA MATER, DEAR IS HER NAME,
AND THERE SHALL BE NO OTHER TO SURPASS HER FAME.
HERS IS THE HAND THAT GUIDES US DAY AFTER DAY,
AND SHE WILL STAND BESIDE US, WHEN WE GO ON OUR WAY.

MAY BLESSINGS BE UPON HER, SHEPHERD OF YOUTH;
SHE HOLDS THE SEAT OF HONOR, IN THE HALL OF TRUTH.
MEM'RIES OF HER SHALL NEVER FADE FROM OUR HEARTS,
AND WE WILL PRAISE HER EVER, FOR THE LOVE SHE IMPARTS.

SING EV'RY VOICE TOGETHER, LET ECHOES RISE.
HAIL TO OUR ALMA MATER, SHOUT TO THE SKIES.
HOLDING THE TORCH OF WISDOM, SHE LEADS THE WAY
CLASPING THE HAND OF FREEDOM, AS SHE MARCHES ALONG.



Lift Every Voice and Sing

*by J. Rosamond Johnson
and James Weldon Johnson*

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
TILL EARTH AND HEAVEN RING
RING WITH THE HARMONIES OF LIBERTY
LET OUR REJOICING RISE
HIGH AS THE LISTENING SKIES
LET IT RESOUND LOUD AS THE ROLLING SEA

SING A SONG FULL OF THE FAITH THAT THE DARK PAST HAS TAUGHT US
SING A SONG FULL OF THE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT HAS BROUGHT US
FACING THE RISING SUN OF OUR NEW DAY BEGUN
LET US MARCH ON TILL VICTORY IS WON

STONY THE ROAD WE TROD
BITTER THE CHASTENING ROD
FELT IN THE DAYS WHEN HOPE UNBORN HAD DIED
YET WITH A STEADY BEAT
HAVE NOT OUR WEARY FEET
COME TO THE PLACE FOR WHICH OUR FATHERS SIGHED?

WE HAVE COME OVER A WAY THAT WITH TEARS HAS BEEN WATERED
WE HAVE COME, TREADING OUR PATH THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE SLAUGHTERED
OUT FROM THE GLOOMY PAST
TILL NOW WE STAND AT LAST
WHERE THE WHITE GLEAM OF OUR BRIGHT STAR IS CAST

GOD OF OUR WEARY YEARS
GOD OF OUR SILENT TEARS
THOU WHO HAS BROUGHT US THUS FAR ON THE WAY
THOU WHO HAS BY THY MIGHT LED US INTO THE LIGHT
KEEP US FOREVER IN THE PATH, WE PRAY
LEST OUR FEET STRAY FROM THE PLACES, OUR GOD, WHERE WE MET THEE

LEST, OUR HEARTS DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF THE WORLD, WE FORGET THEE
SHADOWED BENEATH THY HAND
MAY WE FOREVER STAND
TRUE TO OUR GOD
TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND
OUR NATIVE LAND



Homecoming 2026

will mark a historic milestone as we
celebrate **140 years** of excellence at
Kentucky State University



KYSU.EDU
ONWARD. UPWARD.