

Our Presenters

Leonard "Butch" Powell

Hampton University Class of 1966

Leonard H. Powell is President and owner of Powell Consulting Group, a management consulting corporation. He helps leaders as well as individual contributors adopt fresh perspectives on generating energy and inspiring high performance.

A retired military officer, Mr. Powell served in a variety of leadership assignments including commanding officer, staff intelligence officer and organization development officer. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College holds certificates from the Army's Organizational Systems Development program

Mr. Powell received his Bachelor's Degree from Hampton University and his Master of Public Administration degree from Golden Gate University. He has also earned advanced graduate certificates from Boston University and the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.



Shiona Turini

Hampton University Class of 2003

Shiona Turini is a brand consultant, costume designer, and stylist. In her fifteen year long career in entertainment, fashion, and publishing, Shiona has solidified herself as one of the industry's leading experts, and has been commended for her work both behind and in front of the camera.

Shiona is the costume designer on HBO's *Insecure* (seasons three, four, and five), and was nominated for a 2020 Costume Designers Guild Award for her work on Universal Pictures' *Queen & Slim*, written by Lena Waithe and directed by Melina Matsoukas. Shiona has costume designed and styled music videos for the likes of Megan Thee Stallion (*Ride or Die*) and Solange (*Don't Touch My Hair*, *Cranes in the Sky*).

Prior to costume designing Shiona served as a fashion editor at *Cosmopolitan*, *CR Fashion Book*, *Teen Vogue*, and *W Magazine*. She was born and raised in Bermuda, which remains close to her heart.

Shiona's brand consulting and styling clients include brands and publications such as Bermuda Tourism Authority, Christian Dior, ELLE, Free People, Nike, The New York Times, and Tiffany & Co., and Valentino.





Rising Star Award **Kadidja Dosso, MBA**

Hampton University Class of 2017

Kadidja Dosso is the Founder and CEO of Dosso Beauty LLC, a Black-owned e-commerce Organic Beauty Supplier & Wholesaler selling over 150 branded products curated to meet the beauty needs of the Black Beauty Market. Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Kadidja discovered her passion for hair and cosmetics at a young age, often braiding and styling her loved ones' hair throughout her childhood. As she grew older, Kadidja's love for the cosmetics and hair care industry blossomed as she yearned to discover how she could effectively contribute to the industry. Upon graduation from Hampton University in 2017, Kadidja recognized a gap in the beauty industry: limited accessibility to affordable organic hair care, skin care and cosmetic products that were made for people of color. In 2018, Kadidja set sail to close this gap, founding Dosso Beauty LLC. Dosso Beauty initially debuted with four styles of 100% mink eyelashes, and later expanded to offer a range of personal care products from whipped shea butter and beard oil, to organic edge control and pre-stretched hypoallergenic braiding hair. Today, Dosso Beauty has a catalog of over 150 products, with plans to enter into successful retail spaces that are seeking to connect the Black community to products that are made for them and curated by them. For Kadidja, Dosso Beauty's mission is more than offering organic personal care and cosmetics to the market; it's about providing a platform for people to reinforce the confidence they have within themselves for success. Dosso Beauty strives to create a healthy, safe environment for customers to learn proper hair and skin care tips, while offering organic gender-inclusive products that don't compromise quality. Beauty should be fun, and we want to keep it that way

Dosso Beauty products can be purchased via dossobeauty.com, Amazon, Walmart & GoPuff. In addition to selling Dosso Beauty products D2C, Kadidja has created a strategic B2B2C model with hair salons, hair stylists and local beauty supply stores to provide even more access to clean and organic beauty products.

As the Grand Prize winner of Pharrell Williams HBCU Black Ambition Prize in 2021, Kadidja has taken Dosso Beauty to reach new heights by employing 12 Black/LatinX people of color, procuring a 3PL and creating a community of over 10,000 people who are part of the Clean Beauty Community.

The Rising Star Award

“And thy sacred altar-fires burning” - The Hampton University Alma Mater
Year after year, Hampton graduates some of the most impactful young leaders in a broad range of industries. They forge partnerships, solve problems, blaze trails, and serve their communities wherever they may be. We want to honor those alumni with a special award celebrating their progress.



Life is Singing Award
Colonel (Ret.) Joseph Briggs
Hampton Institute Class of 1963

Known throughout the NHAA, Inc., and his community as a fundraising giant, Joseph Briggs is a mentor, coach, and champion for all he comes in contact with. Mr. Briggs has served in several capacities in the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Chapter of the NHAA, Inc. He was also instrumental in the Chapter's establishment of two Endowed Scholarships at Hampton University.

Mr. Briggs has also served the NHAA, Inc. on the regional level, having served as Vice-President of the Mid-Atlantic Region for over a decade. On the national stage, Mr. Briggs is the Co-Leader for the Emeritus Class and spearheaded a major donor campaign that benefited the NHAA, Inc. Biennial.

Mr. Briggs is also deeply involved in his community. As a longtime member of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Briggs is a member of the Usher Board, Male Chorus, and other auxiliaries.

A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Mr. Briggs has been honored with numerous awards for his leadership and his service to the community.

The Life Is Singing Award

"O Hampton, we never can make thee a song, Except as our lives do the singing"
The Hampton University Alma Mater

This award recognizes an alumnus of Hampton University who has demonstrated a strong lifelong commitment to fulfilling the values of Hampton University and the NHAA, Inc. The mission of an education for life that is shown through their work of the head, heart, and hand. They will have iconic levels of impact and influence either inside or outside the Hampton community. This person's influence is broad and impactful.



Community Impact Award

The Lifting As We Climb Foundation, Inc.

The Lifting As We Climb Foundation (LAWCF) was initially founded in 2004, by 5 Hampton University Alumni. All friends and Class of 2000 classmates: Siraaj Hasan, Curtis Blackwell, Michael Powell, Samir Cummings and Serenity Bush; initially came together to establish the Hamptonian-based organization to execute two primary missions: 1) To make a difference in the lives of youth; and 2) To encourage their fellow classmates and other Hamptonians to do the same. Several hundred Hamptonians, friends and family answered the call on Day 1: Leonard "Butch" Powell, Caesar Nettles, Ed Fisher, Reggie Ramsey, Matt Williams, William Dunn, Qamar Hasan, Deon Johnson, Rod Oden, Michelle Franklin, Chanterius Brock, Dr. Cecil Forbes, Norman Clement, Turquoise Neal, Jason Edwards, Myron Flowers, Eric Bethel, Meron Tamerat, Bethel Negash-Bethel, Rahell Negash, Mike Jones, Corey Cason, Guy Troupe, Demeris Johnson, Michele Jawando, Adelle Chenier, Sonjie DeCaires, Matt Washington and so many more. At the early age of 24, the founders of LAWCF new that their "Home by the Sea" had given them an invaluable experience that not only changed their lives, but gave them the tools, courage, and audacity to believe that they had the power to change others' lives.

The founders of LAWCF decided 18 years ago to focus its mission on serving underprivileged youth and under-served communities. Co-Founders Siraaj Hasan based in Washington, DC and Curtis Blackwell based in Detroit, M.I., began boldly stepping out on faith and purpose, to lead dual programs that operated successfully in both cities. They set out with a clear determination to inspire others and elevate the responsibility and a sense of urgency of helping communities and young people in need. They believed that even at 24 years old, they had enough to "lift as they climbed", lifting others as they were also on their own journeys climbing the corporate/professional ladders. Their focus and urgency has always been centered around "saving youth" and improving the lives of young people through academic enrichment, mentoring, and athletics.

Over the past 18 years, LAWCF has collectively managed to earn quite a few recognitions and honors for its efforts with youth and community. In 2013, LAWCF was invited to the White House to meet former President Barack Obama. In 2014, Siraaj Hasan and Michael Powell were recognized by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc., as a 35th Anniversary Outstanding Hampton University Alumnus; 35 for 35 Honoree. The Detroit City Council has provided Curtis Blackwell with multiple City Resolutions and honors for the past decade and a half. LAWCF has also received Proclamations and personal letters of support from legendary civil-rights leader Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. Washington D.C Mayor and City Council have honored LAWCF with Ceremonial City Resolutions. In 2010, the National Council of Negro Women awarded LAWCF with the "Angels Among Us" award. LAWCF has been highlighted and featured in the WASHINGTON POST, USA TODAY, NBC, and ESPN to name a few.

The Community Impact Award

"In service that will thy great spirit prolong" - The Hampton University Alma Mater

This award recognizes the extraordinary commitment of alumni who contribute to the good of their communities. Whether through professional or volunteer service, they make a significant and positive impact on the lives of others and embody the values represented in the university's vision.



Legacy Builder Award

Ruth E. Carter

Hampton Institute Class of 1982

Ruth E. Carter is an American film costume designer. She is the recipient of the Academy Award for Best Costume Design for Marvel Studio's "BLACK PANTHER" (2019), making history as the first African American to win in the category. Carter wows audiences and dazzles critics alike with Afro Future looks that empower the female form and turn a superhero into an African King.

Inspired by African tribal wear, she fuses traditional and contemporary while incorporating technology to deliver fashion and function; creating such authentic pieces that invoke a deep sense of representation unlike any other costumes experienced on screen. Cementing her as one of the preeminent voices and experts on Afro aesthetics. She recently wrapped production on the film's sequel, "BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER."

In 2021, Carter's costume design brilliance was displayed in "COMING 2 AMERICA," starring Eddie Murphy. Thirty years after the first film, Carter honored its memorable and grandiose vision and, for the sequel, imbued Afro Future design elements to create the majestic beauty and splendor of Zamundan African royalty earning her the Costume Designers' Guild Award for Best Contemporary Film.

A career spanning more than three decades in theater, cinema, and television, Carter's depth of artistry, flowing with her creative instincts, passion for culture and history, empathy for people, capacity for research, and ability to deliver the director's vision while infusing her own signature, makes her one of the most sought after and renowned costume designers in the world.

A true artist and trailblazer, Ruth Carter's costumes, based on real and imaginative characters, provide an arc to the stories of African Americans that are so intriguing and unforgettable they influence music, fashion, culture, art, and film-making. She challenges us to think, reexamine, and imagine. Her attention to detail invites our eyes to look closely, our hearts to feel deeply, and our souls to understand completely the humanity within her characters. With intentionality, she propels us to contemplate our understanding of ourselves while fully respecting and representing the multicultural journeys we travel.

Earning Carter over forty film credits, including two Academy Award nominations for "MALCOLM X" (1993) and "AMISTAD" (1998), an Emmy nomination for the reboot of the television mini-series "ROOTS" (2016), and becoming the second costume designer after Edith Head to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (2021).

Carter is a member of the Board of Governors for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation and is a founder of the Mildred Blount Scholarship Fund created to assist BIPOC costume designers. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts from Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia and an Honorary Doctorate from Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Legacy Builder Award

"And send it thro' centuries ringing!" - The Hampton University Alma Mater

This award recognizes an alumnus who demonstrates an exceptional capacity to build for their community. The recipient demonstrates an impact on others through personal and/or professional purpose driven work. They not only build pathways that create opportunity for others, but their impact on Hampton, the NHAA, Inc., and/or students will be demonstrated for years to come.



Leadership Award **Dr. William R. Harvey**

Dr. William R. Harvey is President of Hampton University and 100% owner of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Houghton, Michigan. Since 1978, he has served with distinction as President of Hampton University and created a monumental legacy during his more than forty year tenure—one of the longest tenures of any sitting president of a college or university in the country. Dr. Harvey is described as “one of the most focused individuals that one can meet.” He is “relentlessly single-minded” when it comes to the advancement of the University. During the time that he has served at the helm, Dr. Harvey has made countless contributions to the University, our state and the nation. Few individuals have demonstrated the dedication to education and service that Dr. Harvey has demonstrated throughout his distinguished career.

A native of Brewton, Alabama, he is a graduate of Southern Normal High School, Talladega College and Virginia State University. After graduating from Talladega College, Dr. Harvey served three years on active duty with the United States Army. During that time, he saw duty in Europe and in the United States. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. Dr. Harvey earned his doctorate in College Administration from Harvard University in 1972. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as Assistant for Governmental Affairs to the Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University; Administrative Assistant to the President at Fisk University; and as Administrative Vice President at Tuskegee University.

Since being named President, Dr. William R. Harvey has introduced innovations which have solidified Hampton University's stellar position among the nation's colleges and universities. His innovative leadership is reflected in the growth and quality of the University's student population, academic programs, physical facilities, and financial base. During Dr. Harvey's tenure as President, the student enrollment at Hampton University has increased from approximately 2,700 students to over 6,300. Moreover, the average SAT score of entering freshmen has increased approximately 300 points!

His commitment to expansion and innovation in academic programs has resulted in 92 new academic programs being implemented under his watch. Some of these new thrusts include undergraduate programs in Computer Science, Marine Science, Entrepreneurship, Chemical, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Airway Science, Emergency Medical Assistance Management; graduate programs in Business Administration (MBA), Applied Mathematics; and doctoral degrees in Physics, Pharmacy, Atmospheric and Planetary Science, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Educational Management, and Business Administration.

Dr. Harvey promotes a learning environment that encourages faculty research rivaling that of major research universities across the nation. Hampton University has built the first proton therapy cancer treatment center in the Commonwealth of Virginia—an unparalleled hub for cancer treatment, research, and technology. Weather satellites have been launched to study noctilucent clouds to determine why they form and how they may be related to global climate change. From Alzheimer's research and alternative fuels to nanodevices combining diagnostic and therapeutic functions for early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis, under the competent leadership of President Harvey, Hampton University is poised to become a leader in research and technology not only in the Hampton Roads area and Virginia, but nationwide. These new programs, together with existing ones, have placed and kept Hampton on the cutting edge of higher education.

The William R. Harvey Leadership Award

“To be a great soul's inspiration” - The Hampton University Alma Mater

This honor is presented annually to a person or organization that has demonstrated exceptional leadership within their chosen field of service, advancement of, or service to Hampton University and the greater community.