



September 27, 2019

Dear Talladega College Family:

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, invited guest Mr. David Banner delivered a speech during Convocation that deeply offended members of our campus community. Mr. Banner's speech does not reflect the views of the College.

We, the Administration, respect difference in perspectives; however, we will not tolerate disrespect of any kind directed at members of this campus community. Our institutional mission is grounded in the understanding and appreciation of diversity—for we are committed to cultivating free-thinking and confident students who will positively impact the world.

Moving forward, we will revisit the process for identifying and inviting future speakers to campus. We all work hard to ensure Talladega College is an inclusive, safe community for all students, staff, faculty and campus visitors. While we aim for honest engagement and critical conversation, we outright reject attacks against individuals in our community.

We extend our sincere apology to all of those who were hurt by Mr. Banner's divisive commentary.

Sincerely,

Dr. Billy C. Hawkins  
President