

For Immediate Release
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Senior Executive Service Member Ms. Essye B. Miller '85
to Deliver Talladega College's Commencement Address



(Talladega, AL) Talladega College announced today that Ms. Essye B. Miller will speak at its 144th commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 9 a.m., on the Quad.

Ms. Miller is a career member of the Senior Executive Service, and currently serves as the Principal Deputy, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO). In this capacity, Ms. Miller assists the DoD CIO as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Information Management / Information Technology (IT) and Information Assurance, as well as non-intelligence space systems; critical satellite communications, navigation, and timing programs; spectrum; and telecommunications.

While serving as the Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) for Cybersecurity and the Department's Senior Information Security Officer (SISO), Ms. Miller was appointed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense as the Acting Defense Chief Information Officer (December 8, 2017 – May 6, 2018). As the DCIO for Cybersecurity, Ms. Miller was responsible for ensuring that the DoD CIO has a well-defined and executed cybersecurity program, and coordinating cybersecurity standards, policies, and procedures with other federal agencies, coalition partners, and industry.

Ms. Miller began her career as an Information Technology Specialist at Gunter Air Force Base after graduating from Talladega College in 1985. She went on to serve in various leadership positions throughout the Air Force, including with the following units or offices: Air Force Communication and Information Center; Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Office at the Pentagon; Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base; the 75th Communications and Information Directorate; and Deputy CIO at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, UT.

Ms. Miller earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Talladega College, a Master of Business Administration Degree from Troy State University and a Master of Strategic Studies from Air University in Montgomery, Alabama. She is a 2016 graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in National and International Security Studies. Additionally, Ms. Miller is Acquisition Level III certified in Information Technology.

Ms. Miller was awarded the Presidential Rank Award as a meritorious recipient in 2018. This award is given to members of the Senior Executive Service for exceptional service over an extended period of time.

Ms. Miller was initiated into the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in 1982. She is a Diamond Life member, active with the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter in Northern Virginia.

About Talladega College

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is the home of the renowned Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals, which received rave reviews from the *New York Times* during a three-year, eight-city tour.