

For Immediate Release
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Talladega College president honored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc



(Talladega, AL.) Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins was recently presented with two awards from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He received the prestigious Graduate Citizen of the Year Award from the State of Alabama Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc and the Theta Tau Chapter's Citizenship Award during the Chapter's Annual Achievement Week Awards Program at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL.

Theta Tau Chapter Basileus Mr. David Patterson and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc Alabama State Representative Mr. Christopher Brooks are pictured with Dr. Hawkins at the program. The Citizen of the Year Award is presented to an "outstanding citizen nominated for unusual contributions to humanity." The Theta Tau Chapter award honors Dr. Hawkins for making "outstanding contributions to Theta Tau Chapter, the State, the District, and International levels of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc during the 2017-2018 fiscal year."

Dr. Hawkins has served as president of Talladega College since January 1, 2008. During his tenure, he has stabilized finances; increased fundraising; expanded academic offerings; increased enrollment; and successfully guided the institution through a ten year SACS accreditation. A new residence hall is scheduled to open in December; a student center is under construction; and ground has been broken on the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art.

Dr. Hawkins is vice-chair of member institutions for the UNCF board of directors, the first African American to chair the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the author of two books. He is a member of the Talladega Rotary Club, the Delta Upsilon Boulé and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He is also a recipient of numerous awards, including the Vanguard Award from the Higher Education Leadership Foundation and the Colonel Leo Thorsness Courage Award. He was named a "Hero in Healthcare for 2018" by Quality of Life Health Services.

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.