



# Spelman College President to Participate in White House Initiative on Increasing College Opportunity for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Students

ATLANTA (Jan. 16, 2014) -- Spelman College President Beverly Daniel Tatum will join President Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Secretary Arne Duncan and other higher education leaders on January 16 to discuss ways to increase college opportunity for low-income and disadvantaged students. The event is being streamed live at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/live>

Most of Spelman's students come from families with very limited economic resources, with 93 percent receiving some form of financial aid and 50 percent are Pell Grant-eligible, with an average family income under \$40,000. At the same time, Spelman boasts a graduation rate of nearly 80 percent.

"The issue of college access and success is at the core of the Spelman mission. I am glad to be able to share our best practices with my presidential colleagues and to learn how the Obama administration is working to expand college opportunity for underserved students," said President Tatum.

Spelman has made increasing scholarship support as a means to ensure the successful matriculation and graduation of students a top strategic priority. Spelman's institutional scholarship aid has tripled over the last 10 years, going from approximately \$5 million to more than \$15 million annually. In addition, nearly \$50M in new scholarship dollars has been raised as part of the College's current comprehensive fundraising campaign.

For more information about this initiative, please contact the White House Press Office at [press@who.eop.gov](mailto:press@who.eop.gov).

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## ABOUT SPELMAN COLLEGE

Founded in 1881, Spelman College is a highly selective, liberal arts college widely recognized as the global leader in the education of women of African descent. Located in Atlanta, Ga., the College's picturesque campus is home to 2,100 students. Outstanding alumnae include Children's Defense Fund Founder Marian Wright Edelman, Sam's Club CEO Rosalind Brewer, Former Acting Surgeon General and Spelman's first alumna President Audrey Forbes Manley, Harvard University Professor Evelyn Hammonds, Author Pearl Cleage and Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson. For more information, visit [www.spelman.edu](http://www.spelman.edu).