

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Susan L. Taylor is “Lift Every Voice” Speaker

Bennett College for Women is pleased to announce that Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief emeritus of ESSENCE Magazine and founder of the National Cares Mentoring Movement is the next speaker in the “Lift Every Voice” Speaker Series. The speaker series, an initiative started by President Julianne Malveaux, brings to the Bennett campus and the Greensboro community, voices that lift and inspire. Taylor’s visit is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 11:00 am in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel. The event is free and open to the public.

In its 2nd year, the “Lift Every Voice” Speaker Series has brought to the Bennett campus and the Greensboro community such notable figures as Emmy award-winning journalist Ed Gordon; the phenomenal poet Nikki Giovanni and William C. Bell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Casey Family Programs. Other speakers have included Rev. Marcia Dyson, hailed as one of our nation’s foremost religious figures and spiritual writers; Dr. Sheila Simmons, Associate Director of the Human and Civil Rights Department, National Education Association; George Fraser, author of the critically acclaimed book CLICK; Donna Oldham, Senior Communications Manager, Dell, Inc.; and Yvonne Johnson, Mayor of Greensboro.

Susan L. Taylor is synonymous with *Essence* magazine, the brand she built—as its fashion and beauty editor, as editor-in-chief and editorial director. For 27 years she authored one of the magazine’s most popular columns, *In the Spirit*. For nearly three decades, as the driving force behind one of the most celebrated Black-owned businesses of our time, Taylor is a legend in the magazine publishing world.

She was the first and only African American Woman to be recognized by the Magazine Publishers of America with the Henry Johnson Fisher Award—the industry’s highest honor—and the first to be inducted into the American Society of Magazine Editors Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the NAACP President’s Award for visionary leadership and has honorary degrees from more than a dozen colleges and universities.

Taylor founded her own cosmetics company, a first for Black women, which led to the beauty editor’s position at *Essence*. She is the author of four books: *In the Spirit: The Inspirational Writings of Susan L. Taylor*; *Lessons in Living*; *Confirmation: The Spiritual Wisdom That Has Shaped Our Lives*, which she coauthored with her husband, Khephra Burns; and her most recent, *All About Love, Favorite Selections from In the Spirit on Living Fearlessly*.

Susan’s passion and focus today is the National Cares Mentoring Movement, a call to action, which she founded in 2006 as Essence Cares. The Cares mentoring movement is a massive campaign to recruit one million able adults to help secure our children who are in peril and losing ground. “Not on our watch!” she says. “Our children are the mothers and fathers of our tomorrows, and their future is in our hands.”

Bennett College for Women, located in Greensboro, NC, was founded in 1873 as a coeducational institution and in 1926 was reorganized as a college for women. A small, private, historically Black liberal arts, United Methodist Church-related institution, Bennett offers women an education conducive to excellence in scholarly pursuits; preparation for leadership roles in the workplace, society, and the world; and life-long learning in a technologically advanced, complex global society.

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