

TOUGALOO COLLEGE

Tougaloo, Mississippi 39174



OFFICE OF THE BOARD CHAIR

Subject: Presidential Search Finalist Candidate #3—Dr. Corey Wiggins

Presidential Search Committee Chair and Chair of the Board of Trustees Dr. Blondean Davis and the Presidential Search Committee are pleased to announce the third finalist candidate for the 15th President of Tougaloo College, **Dr. Corey Wiggins**.

Dr. Wiggins currently serves as Federal Co-Chair of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Additional information about his background and credentials can be found below.

Dr. Wiggins will be on campus for interviews on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. Your attendance and engagement with the candidate during your respective constituent group meetings are highly encouraged. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the candidate.

Below is a schedule of the candidate's constituent meetings:

Time (CST)	Tougaloo College Constituents	Meeting Location
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Meeting with Faculty	Bennie G. Thompson Conference Room
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Meeting with Staff	Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod Auditorium
3:00 – 4:15 p.m.	Meeting with Student Body	Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod Auditorium
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Meeting with Alumni	Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod Auditorium and via Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82032949689?pwd=MaUCXXKYajgE5a3LvJwvrlEzGrReuc.1

Each session will begin with introductory remarks from the Search Committee Leadership Team, followed by a presentation from each candidate along with a question and answer

session, and conclude with an evaluation of each candidate by the respective constituency groups.

We ask that you provide feedback on the candidate via this feedback survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TougalooFinalistCW>. The survey will remain open for 24 hours after the candidate's visit and **will close on January 24, 2026 at 11:45pm CST**.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful engagement with the candidates and this process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Blondean Y. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Blondean" being the most prominent part.

Dr. Blondean Y. Davis

Chair, Tougaloo College Board of Trustees and

Chair, Tougaloo College Presidential Search Committee



Dr. Corey Wiggins

Dr. Corey Wiggins is a nationally recognized executive and changemaker with over 15 years of cross-sector leadership at the highest levels of government, higher education, philanthropy, and community economic development. A son of Mississippi and the Deep South, Dr. Wiggins has dedicated his career to advancing equity, strengthening institutions, and building sustainable pathways of opportunity for historically underserved communities.

Dr. Wiggins currently serves as Federal Co-Chair of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), a presidential appointee confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. In this role, he leads an independent federal agency serving 255 counties and parishes across eight states in the Mississippi Delta and Alabama Black Belt. Under his leadership, the agency has deployed over \$300 million in public infrastructure, workforce development, and small business investments, leveraging public-private partnerships to drive regional transformation. His tenure has redefined the DRA's role as a convener of cross-sector innovation and a catalyst for inclusive economic development.

Prior to his federal appointment, Dr. Wiggins served as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, a position once held under the title of Field Secretary by Medgar Evers, the organization's top statewide leadership role. During his tenure, he led transformative statewide campaigns in criminal justice reform and civic engagement, tripled the organization's revenue, and mobilized a network of more than 11,000 volunteers across Mississippi.

He previously served as Senior Vice President at HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union, and Hope Policy Institute), a regional public policy institute focused on economic mobility in the Deep South. His leadership helped shape policy solutions across education, housing, health, and financial inclusion—while securing philanthropic support to advance institutional and community impact.

A seasoned educator and thought leader, Dr. Wiggins has held faculty appointments at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson State University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he taught courses on health policy, strategic management, and social determinants of health. His teaching and mentorship reflect a lifelong commitment to student success and higher education as a vehicle for leadership development and social change.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wiggins has raised and managed more than \$300 million in public and private funds to support economic development, institutional growth, and equity-focused initiatives. Across this work, he has centered students, educators, and communities as partners in institutional leadership and change. His approach to leadership emphasizes collaboration, evidence-based strategy, and mission alignment. He has advised policymakers at the state and federal levels, worked across partisan lines, and cultivated deep networks across philanthropy, academia, and grassroots movements.

Dr. Wiggins' work has been recognized through numerous prestigious fellowships, including the Kellogg Foundation's Community Leadership Network, the Rockwood Leadership Institute, and the Mel King Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he explored global frameworks for economic democracy and justice-centered development.

He has also served on several national boards, including the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), FWD.us, the Safe Routes Partnership, and the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC), where he contributed expertise on audit, governance, and strategic direction.

Dr. Wiggins holds a PhD in Health Education and Promotion and an MSPH in Health Policy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a BS in Biology from Alcorn State University. He also holds an executive certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College.

Dr. Wiggins is married with three sons. Rooted in the values of faith, family, and justice, Dr. Wiggins continues to center his leadership on improving the material conditions of people and places often left behind—transforming systems so that all communities can thrive.