



## Continuing to Bridge the Gap - Transforming Education at HBCUs

Innovate Conference 2020 – Chicago, IL

**KEYNOTE: Dr. Michael L. Torrence**

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### Biography of Dr. Michael L. Torrence, President Motlow State Community College



Seated as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of Motlow State Community College, Dr. Michael L. Torrence leads the 35<sup>th</sup> fastest growing college in the nation, the number one ranked college in retention, completion, and graduation rates in Tennessee, and only college that holds claim of its shared heritage with Jack Daniel Distillery, located just two hills over from Motlow State. In his 17<sup>th</sup> months as president, Dr. Torrence has changed the trajectory of Motlow State as he continues to net build by serving and transforming rural, urban, and suburban communities with the focus of student success and workforce development. Dr. Torrence is a champion of the community college and its mission and is deliberate in relationship building. His success in higher education spans approximately 25 years and represents a demonstrated love of the teaching and learning community, working both as faculty and as an administrator in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs before leading Motlow State as its Chief Executive Office. To his credit, Motlow is a forerunner in integrating emerging technology into its teaching and learning community.

Dr. Torrence has the ability to create the vision, communicate the vision, and carry the vision to fruition so that all stakeholders may benefit. He connects with students, faculty, staff, and the at-large community by creating a holistic community where all are welcome and valued. Dr. Torrence is a distinguished visiting lecturer throughout the higher education community and is known for his commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. He was the 2019 recipient of the GlobalMindEd Inclusive Excellence Award in the Community College/Research category.

Additionally, Dr. Torrence was named to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) Presidential Advisory Board, a member of the Western Governors University (WGU) Tennessee Advisory Board, Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Board, Berkley College Online Advisory Board, and others.

Dr. Torrence earned a Ph.D. from Tennessee Technological University and bachelor's and master's degrees from South Dakota State University. Additionally, he served four years in the US Air Force.

Dr. Torrence is married to Dr. Jamie Torrence, who is also an educator. They have two children, Anna and Jack.

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