



**East Tennessee State University
Office of the President**

Box 70734 • Johnson City, Tennessee 37614-1710 • (423) 439-4211 • Fax: (423) 439-4004

**Dedication of Memorial Fountain and Historic Marker
Monday, 25, 2013 – 12:00 p.m.
Borchuck Plaza**

Good afternoon. The calendar says it is spring, but it appears the snow wants to make a few repeat performances, so I thank you for your patience as we have moved this event indoors.

I want to begin by welcoming all of you who have joined us today, and I want to extend special greetings to those who are visiting our campus for the first time. This is an honorable occasion for East Tennessee State University as we celebrate the completion of our beautiful memorial fountain and the placement of a new historic marker, both of which sit just beyond this building over in Borchuck Plaza.

These structures tell a story that began more than 50 years ago. It is a story of hope, a story of inspiration, and a story of bravery. It is a story of five men and women who dreamed of a greater tomorrow, and who saw higher education as the road to making their dreams possible.

Their journeys began on this campus where, in the late 1950s, they desegregated East Tennessee State College. From these five students would emerge two educators, a civil rights activist, an esteemed leader in higher education, and a decorated military serviceman and respected businessman.

Today you will hear from them and from those who knew our honorees. They are heroes. Their legacies inspire us. Both the marker and the fountain rest in the shadows of buildings which were named in honor of some of the greatest presidents in ETSU's history, men like D.P. Culp, Charles Sherrod, Burgin Dossett, and Roy Nicks.

Again, thank you for being here for this special event. At this time I will turn the program over to Commissioner Tobie Bledsoe from the Tennessee State Historical Commission for the formal dedication of the historic marker. Following her comments we will hear a musical number from 10 BucsWorth.