

# Grambling State University Honors Convocation



TH Harris Auditorium  
11:00 Ante Meridiem  
April 8, 2025

**Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr, President**

**Dr. Connie Walton, Provost &  
Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**Dr. Ellen D. Smiley, Dean  
Earl Lester Cole Honors College**



# Honors Day Convocation

11:00 A.M.  
April 8, 2025

TH Harris Auditorium

Annually Grambling State University gives special recognition to undergraduate and graduate students who have labored diligently to attain academic excellence.



## Office of the President

April 8, 2025



Dear Honorees, Families, Faculty, and Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to Grambling State University's annual Honors Day Convocation, a celebration of academic excellence, perseverance, and the boundless potential of our students.

Today, we recognize scholars who have distinguished themselves through hard work, discipline, and a deep commitment to learning. Your achievements are not only commendable; they are inspiring. You've set a standard of excellence that reflects the very best of what it means to be part of the Grambling State legacy.

To our honorees: this moment is a testament to your dedication. You've faced challenges with resilience and purpose, and I encourage you to carry this momentum forward – into your studies, your careers, and your communities. The world needs your brilliance, your leadership, and your voice.

To the families, mentors, and faculty who have walked alongside our students, thank you. Your encouragement, wisdom, and support have helped make this moment possible.

At Grambling State University, we believe in cultivating not only academic success, but also character, service, and leadership. What we celebrate today is more than grades; it's the growth of future leaders who will shape industries, challenge norms, and uplift communities.

Congratulations again to each of our honorees. You've made us proud, and we look forward to everything you will accomplish in the journey ahead.

With Tiger Pride,

Martin Lemelle, Jr., D.B.A.  
President



**OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

April 8, 2025

Greetings,

Congratulations on making the 2024 honor roll! We are extremely proud of you and the academic accomplishments that you made during the last spring and fall semesters at Grambling State University. This distinction signifies the commitment that you have made to your studies. Today at the university-wide Honors Convocation, we celebrate and recognize you and your peers for the hard work and dedication to academic excellence that you have demonstrated throughout the year.

Thank you for continuing the legacy of academic distinction at our illustrious and historic institution. As an undergraduate or graduate student, you have now joined thousands of students in which this honor has been bestowed. The medallions and pins presented to you at today's convocation are symbolic of the academic success that you have earned. Wear them with tremendous pride.



Again, congratulations on your well-deserved honors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connie Walton".

Connie Walton, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice  
President

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# GRAMBLING

STATE UNIVERSITY®

## EARL LESTER COLE HONORS COLLEGE

Greetings,

Grambling State University's lineage is rooted in excellence at all levels. Through our Honors Convocation Program, with great pride and respect, we pause to commemorate our honors students, who represent one aspect of that storied lineage.

The University's top scholars have distinguished themselves as members of Graduate Studies honors, the President's List, the Dean's List, the University's Honor Roll, and most recent inductees of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College. Their success is a testament to hard work and dedication that is driven by purposeful faculty and a foundation that is supported by family, friends, and others.



It is an honor to recognize these learners for yet another historical milestone in their academic preparation. We are proud that our students have set their sights high, striving for excellence on their educational journey.

On behalf of the Honors Convocation Committee, join us as we celebrate our scholars. It is our hope that they will continue to be motivated towards success as they inspire us and others

**Best,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen D. Smiley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Ellen D. Smiley, Ed.D., Dean  
Earl Lester Cole Honors College**

Dr. Ellen Smiley | Dean, Earl Lester Cole Honors College  
GSU Box 4208, Grambling, Louisiana 71245 | Telephone: (318) 274-2114 or (318) 274-2286 | Fax: (318) 274-6037

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# ORDER OF THE PROGRAM

**Dr. Roshunda Belton-Cardoza**  
***Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs***  
***Presiding Officer***

**Prelude** **Grambling State University Experimental Jazz Band**  
**Mr. Jonathon Neal, Director**

**Meditation** **Dr. Obadiah Simmons, Jr.**  
**Interim Dean, College of Education & Head/Director, Department of**  
**Kinesiology, Sport & Leisure Studies/Sport Administration Graduate**  
**Program**

**Greetings** **Dr. Martin Lemelle, Jr.**  
**President, Grambling State University**

**Occasion** **Mrs. Tasha Heard**  
**Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management**

**Musical Selection** **Grambling State University Experimental Jazz Band**  
**Mr. Jonathon Neal, Director**

**Honors Oath** **Dr. Carolyn Hester**  
**Dean, College of Professional Studies**

***Presentation of University-Wide Awards*** **Dr. Carolyn Jackson**  
**Interim Executive Director, Office of Graduate Studies**

**President's List**  
**Dean's List**  
**Honor Roll**  
**Graduate Studies**

***Musical Selection*** **Jazz Band**

**Announcements/Recognitions/Closing Remarks** **Presiding Officer**

# THE ALMA MATER

Old Grambling, dear Grambling,  
We love thee, dear old Grambling  
We're loyal to thee, our dear old School,  
We'll fight for thee for evermore.  
And when life's game is fought and won,  
The hills will ring with victory's song.  
Old Grambling, dear Grambling,  
We love thee, dear old Grambling

Old Grambling, dear Grambling,  
We love thee, dear old Grambling  
Long may thee stand 'til all the land  
Has felt the worth of thy great hand.  
And when thy sons to battle go,  
The hills will ring from shore to shore.  
Old Grambling, dear Grambling,  
We love thee, dear Old Grambling.

*Lyrics by Ralph Waldo Emerson "Prez" Jones*



# Grambling State University

## Honors Day Oath

I believe that education is a privilege.

I believe in my fellow students.

Therefore I treat my fellow students with dignity and respect.

I listen to them. I learn from them.

I engage in collaborative discussions, trusting they will do the same.

I believe new opportunities make me better.

I embrace change.

I remain curious.

I am hopeful.

I believe that giving back does not start after graduation.

I believe it begins now, and should happen every day after.

I believe knowledge can change us.

I believe we can change the world.

# THE HONORS RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Dr. Ellen D. Smiley, Chair

Dr. Rory L. Bedford

Dr. Bobby Burks

Mrs. Shakira Hardison

Dr. Morsheda Hassan

Mr. E. Glen Lewis

Mr. Bruce Morgan

Dr. Elise Reed

Dr. Obadiah Simmons, Jr.

Mr. Prentiss Smiley

Mr. Aaron Younger

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Mr. Glen Lewis  
University Photography

Mr. Alan Blakeney  
Director Television Center

## **PROGRAM ASSISTANTS**

Ms. Nadia Johnny

Ms. Jacqueline Newsome

Mrs. Miloni Perera