

## **DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR MICHAEL ERIC DYSON AND EMMY AWARD-WINNING ENTERTAINER LONI LOVE TO DELIVER 2021 GRADUATION ADDRESSES**

*PVAMU will hold its spring commencement on Saturday, May 15, 2021, and a recognition ceremony for 2020 graduates on Friday, May 14, 2021.*

**PRAIRIE VIEW**, Texas (April 13, 2021) – This year's graduation celebration at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) will be extraordinary! Not only will PVAMU hold its first in-person commencement since the pandemic for its spring Class of 2021, but the university will also hold a recognition event for its Class of 2020. The university has selected two national figures to deliver inspirational messages to the graduates.

### **Commencement Speaker: Michael Eric Dyson**

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson has been selected as PVAMU's 139th Spring Commencement Convocation Speaker. The event takes place Saturday, May 15, 2021, in Panther Stadium at 8:30 a.m.

Dyson currently serves at Vanderbilt University as Centennial Chair and University Distinguished Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies in the College of Arts and Science and University Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Society in the Divinity School. He has held teaching positions at Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania, Brown University, the Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, among others.



The Detroit native earned a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University and is an ordained Baptist minister. He is a sought-after media commentator and a contributing opinion writer at The New York Times, as well as a contributing editor at The New Republic and ESPN's The Undeclared website. Two of his best-selling books include "Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America" (2020) and "The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America" (2017).

Read more about Dr. Dyson [here](#).

### **Ceremony Orator: Loni Love**



PVAMU alumna and award-winning comedienne Loni Love has been tapped as the Ceremony Orator for the university's 2020 Recognition Ceremony on Friday, May 14, in Panther Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

Not only is Love an EMMY and NAACP Image Award-winning co-host of "The Real," but she is also a proud graduate of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at PVAMU. The Detroit native is another example of how "Prairie View Produces Productive People."

Love's voice, image, and perspective can be found across all media platforms, from her nationally syndicated "Café Mocha" radio show with rapper YoYo, to reality TV as a guest judge on "RuPaul's Drag Race," and executive producing "Little Women Unfiltered: Atlanta." Love also has a growing list of movie-acting credits.

The two-time best-selling author is also well known for her philanthropic commitment, including being an ambassador for Former First Lady Michelle Obama's When We All Vote, as well as the NAACP, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Girl Scouts, and the United Negro College Fund, to name a few.

Read more about Loni Love [here](#).

**Event:** PVAMU Spring 2021 Commencement

**Date:** Saturday, May 15, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Event:** PVAMU 2020 Graduates Recognition Ceremony

**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Panther Stadium

**Where:** [www.pvamu.edu/commencement](http://www.pvamu.edu/commencement)

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**About Prairie View A&M University:** Designated an institution of “the first class” in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees, and doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit [www.pvamu.edu](http://www.pvamu.edu).

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