



## PVAMU WELCOMES FORTUNE 2024'S MOST POWERFUL WOMAN AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas** (November 13, 2024) – Prairie View A&M University continues a long-standing tradition of highlighting changemakers, thought leaders, and pioneers by announcing Thasunda Brown Duckett, President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA, as the keynote speaker for its 29th Fall Commencement. The ceremony will be held on December 14, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Building, known affectionately on The Hill as the "Baby Dome."

As CEO of TIAA, Duckett is one of only two Black women to hold the position at a Fortune 500 company. Under her leadership, the company has advanced its dedication to financial inclusion and economic empowerment, especially in higher education. Recently named one of Fortune's 2024 most powerful women, Duckett will undoubtedly motivate the University's 900 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students by sharing how she navigated challenges throughout her illustrious career and how she plans to "continue to put cracks in the ceiling for the next generation of leaders".

Before joining TIAA in 2021, Duckett, who holds a bachelor's degree in finance and marketing from the University of Houston and an MBA from Baylor University, held several key executive roles in the financial sector.

Duckett serves on the boards of several prestigious organizations, including NIKE, the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the Committee for Economic Development. She is also the founder of the Rosie and Otis Brown Foundation, in honor of her parents, which recognizes and rewards people who use ordinary means to empower and uplift their community in extraordinary ways.

Ms. Duckett exemplifies Prairie View A&M University's tagline, "Excellence Lives Here." PVAMU graduates, faculty, staff and alumni welcome her as a beacon of inspiration for the rising stars at Prairie View A&M University.

The University will stream the event live at [www.pvamu.edu/stream](http://www.pvamu.edu/stream) and [www.youtube.com/pvamu](http://www.youtube.com/pvamu).

For more information about Prairie View A&M's Fall Commencement, please contact Liz Faublas-Wallace at [lswallace@pvamu.edu](mailto:lswallace@pvamu.edu).

###

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an "institution of the first class" in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 9,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its 11 colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor's and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit [www.pvamu.edu](http://www.pvamu.edu).

### MEDIA CONTACTS

#### Candace Johnson

Executive Director of Marketing and  
Communications

936-261-1566 • [cajohnson@pvamu.edu](mailto:cjohnson@pvamu.edu)

#### Liz Faublas-Wallace

Communications Professional

936-261-1562

[lswallace@pvamu.edu](mailto:lswallace@pvamu.edu)

The Office for Marketing and Communications • 936-261-1560 • [www.pvamu.edu/marcomm](http://www.pvamu.edu/marcomm)