

HISTORY OF



& Other Distinctions

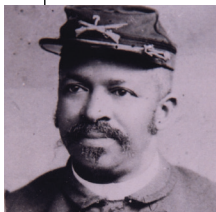


Lincoln University
LEARN. LIBERATE. LEAD.

FIRSTS

1854 – Established as the nation’s first degree granting Historically Black College & University (HBCU).

1859 – The first graduate of Lincoln University, then the Ashmun Institute James Ralston Amos.



1865 – Among the first Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, U.S. Civil War veteran Christian Fleetwood, an 1860 Lincoln graduate.

1874 – The first African American to graduate Yale School of Divinity James William Morris, an 1871 Lincoln graduate. Samuel (Solomon) Melvin Coles, another Lincoln graduate was actually the first African American to be enrolled at YDS, however. Morris, who enrolled at YDS after him, finished in only one year due to previously taken courses at Lincoln’s theological program.

1875 – The first African American Yale Divinity student and the first African American to receive the Bachelor of Divinity after completion of the full three-year theological program at Yale Divinity School, Samuel (Solomon) Melvin Coles, an 1872 Lincoln graduate.

1882-1995 – The first presidents, rectors and/or college founders of 10 U.S. & foreign universities: Livingstone College (North Carolina) Joseph Charles Price, Ph.D., an 1879 Lincoln graduate; 1896 – South Carolina State University – Thomas Ezekiel Miller, an 1872 Lincoln graduate; 1903 – Albany State University (Georgia) – Joseph Winthrop Holley, a 1900 Lincoln graduate; 1927 – Texas Southern University (Alumni Founder unrecorded); 1939 – Fort Valley State University (Georgia) – Horace Mann Bond, Ph.D. ’23; (Founding Date Unavailable) – IHEME Memorial College (Nigeria) (Alumni Founder Unrecorded); 1951 – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana) (Alumni Founder Unrecorded); 1955 – University of Nigeria (Nigeria) (Alumni Founder Unrecorded); 1995 – The Polytechnic of Namibia –Tjama Tjivikua, Ph.D., ’83.

1884 – The first alumni publication for a U.S. college, also including abolitionist, orator and educator Frederick Douglass as early writer.

1888 – The first African American to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Aaron Albert Mossell, an 1855 Lincoln graduate.

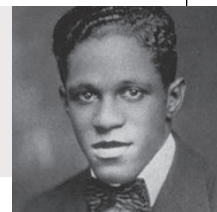
1910 – The first African American elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly Harry W. Bass, an 1886 Lincoln graduate.

1920 – The first registered black architect in Georgia and founder of the nation’s first black architecture firm, Taylor and Persley (with his partner Robert Taylor), Louis H. Persley, 1908.

1920 – The first African American to receive a doctorate in psychology and the Father of Black Psychology Francis Cecil Sumner, a 1915 graduate.

1920 – The first African American to serve in the New Jersey Legislature Walter G. Alexander, an 1899 graduate.

1921 – The first African American National Football League coach (Akron Pros), Fritz Pollard, former coach of Lincoln University football team (1918-1920 seasons).



1932 – The first African American to earn both an M.D. (1929, Harvard University) and a Ph.D. (Columbia University) Hildrus A. Poindexter ’24, was also the first African American internationally recognized authority on tropical diseases.

1945 – The first African American and eighth president of Lincoln University, Horace Mann Bond ’23.

1947 – The first African American Pennsylvania Judge (Philadelphia Municipal Court) Herbert E. Millen, a 1910 Lincoln graduate.

1950 – The first Black university affiliated with the College Entrance Examinations Board.

1953 – The first female graduate of Lincoln University, Ruth Fales ’53.

1955 – The first African American female graduate of Lincoln University, Gladys W. Walls ’55.

1958 – The first African American U.S. Congressman for Pennsylvania, Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. ’28.

1960 – The first president of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah ’39.

1962 – The first African American U.S. postal inspector Charles A. Preston, Jr., ’50.

1963 – The first group of Peace Corps trainees arrived on Lincoln’s campus for their training session. Ironically, the Peace Corps was modeled after Crossroads Africa, an organization founded by Rev. James Robinson ’35 in 1957.

1963 – The first president of Nigeria Nnamdi Azikiwe ’30.

1963 – The first African American faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania William Fontaine ’30.

Our dear old Orange and Blue

Dear Lincoln, To thee we'll ere be true

1967 – The first African American Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Justice Thurgood Marshall '30.

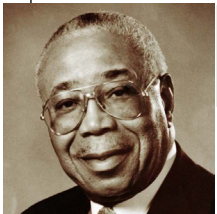
1968 – The first tenured African American faculty at Harvard University Martin L. Kilson, Jr., Ph.D., '53.

1968 – The first African American Bishop of the United Methodist Church Bishop Roy C. Nichols '41.

1972 – California State University's systems first African American vice president, James Bell '52. He also was the first African American to earn a doctorate in health, physical education and recreation at Columbia University in (unknown). In addition, he was California State Polytechnic University, Pomona's first African American dean in the School of Arts in 1969; and subsequently, the school's first African American assistant to the school's vice president of academic affairs in 1970.

1972 – Edward S. Cooper, M.D., '46 was the first African American Tenured Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the nation's oldest medical school. He retired and Emeritus status was conferred in 1996.

1975 – The first African American Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan Albert Wheeler '36



1984 – The first African American mayor of Atlantic City James L. Usry '46.

1985 – The first African American to have a federal building, a courthouse, dedicated in his honor, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., '32, a Civil Rights activist and longtime lobbyist for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Baltimore, Maryland, courthouse on the west side of Calvert Street bears his name.

1987 – The first alumna elected to Lincoln University Board of Trustees by the Alumni Association, Delores Kirby Coleman '72.

1987 – The first female president of Lincoln University, Niara Sudarkasa, Ph.D.

1992 – Edward S. Cooper, M.D., '46 became the first African American president of the American Heart Association.

1994 – The first African American Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, A.A. Birch, Jr., '52.

1997 – The first African American Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Roderick L. Ireland '66.

1998 – The first African American female U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Lillian Fishburne '71.



1999-03 – The first woman to chair Lincoln University's Board of Trustees Adrienne G. Rhone '76.

Early 2000s – The first Black dean of the University of Pretoria after the dismantling of Apartheid Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo, Ph.D., '81.

2003 – The first American university to have two alumni honored with commemorative, first-class U.S. postage stamps.

2007 – The first minority president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Scott Johnson, Ph.D., '73.

2009/2010 – The first African American president and then first African American chairman of the Board of Directors, United States Distance Learning Association E. Reggie Smith III, Ph.D., '92.

2015 – Saara Kuugongelwa '94, the first female Prime Minister of Namibia.

2015 – The first alumna president of a college or university, Soraya Coley '72, president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

2015 – Lincoln University became the first HBCU to charter a "hall" or pre-law society chapter (for undergraduates) of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society. "Lincoln University Hall" was organized and founded by students, Gionelly Mills '18 and Shereka Ellington '18.

2015 – Jalaal A. Hayes, Ph.D., '11 became the youngest recipient of a doctorate degree in Delaware State University history at age 22.

2016 – The first African American to lead Metro Nashville Nashville Schools, Shawn Joseph '96.

2016 – The first female Philadelphia prisons commissioner, Blanche Carney '92.



2017 – Brenda A. Allen '81 becomes the first female Lincoln University alumna selected as president of the University.

2017 – The Hon. Sheila Y. Oliver '74 was elected the first African American female lieutenant governor of New Jersey. In 2010, she became the first African American female speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly.



DISTINCTIONS

- Over the years, three U.S. Presidents have visited Lincoln University, including: William H. Taft, on June 18, 1910 delivered the Commencement Address; Warren G. Harding, on June 6, 1921 — a day prior to commencement exercises and the dedication of the Alumni Arch, a memorial to Lincoln men who served in World War; and Gerald Ford, who toured the campus in 1978.
- World-acclaimed poet Langston Hughes graduated in 1929.
- At least 10 Lincoln graduates have served as United States Ambassadors and mission chiefs.
- The coaching staff of Lincoln University football team once included Fritz Pollard, the soon-to-be-the first African American National Football League coach and the legendary athlete, actor, singer and activist Paul Robeson.
- The University has had a long relationship with the family of Paul Robeson. His father Reverend William Drew Robeson, who was an escaped slave, received a Sacred Theology degree from Lincoln University in 1876. In the 1870s, Maria Louisa Bustill, who was from a prominent Philadelphia Quaker family of political activists and abolitionists, had been permitted to attend Lincoln. Both she and her sister, Gertrude, married Lincoln men. Paul's brother, Bill, who was refused entry to Princeton because of his race, attended Lincoln and two years later enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, but later received his M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine. His rebellious older brother, Reed, dropped out from Lincoln at the start of his senior year. Paul, himself, always assumed he would attend Lincoln, but won a four year scholarship to Rutgers College as a prize for a competitive examination.
- Robert Walter "Whirlwind" Johnson graduated from the University in 1924 and later became a noted educator and tennis instructor, including for tennis greats Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson.
- American painter Romare Bearden attended Lincoln for one year before transferring to Boston University in 1930.
- Oscar Brown, Jr., a 1940 Lincoln graduate, became a renowned singer, actor, playwright and director in the 1960s.
- Major League Baseball and Negro Baseball Leagues Hall of Famer Monford "Monte" Irvin, attended the University in the early 1940s. Irvin was a star outfielder with the New York Giants in the late 1940s and early 1950s.
- In 1967, former Lincoln University Professor Charles V. Hamilton and Civil Rights activist Stokely Carmichael collaborated to write and publish their groundbreaking book on black empowerment, Black Power.
- Robert Warner, Jr., the father of television and movie star Malcolm Jamal Warner, graduated from Lincoln in 1972.
- Distinguished individuals who have received Lincoln University honorary degrees for their accomplishments, include world-famous physicist and Nobel Prize-winner Albert Einstein (1946); Civil Rights Leader Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. (1961); Civil Rights and Labor Union Leader A. Philip Randolph (1967); Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren and Civil Rights Leader Rev. Jesse Jackson (1969); Entertainer and Social Activist Richard "Dick" Gregory (1971); Internationally Renowned singer Marian Anderson (1976); U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (1985); Archbishop Desmond Tutu of the Republic of South Africa (1990); Rosa Parks, affectionately hailed as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" (1992); and award-winning playwright August Wilson (1996).
- Elected in 2002 as speaker of the California State Assembly, the Honorable Herb J. Wesson Jr. '99.
- Then-the nation's No. 1 television show, The Cosby Show, hails Lincoln University as the college attended by Cosby's television daughter, Vanessa Huxtable, portrayed by Tempestt Bledsoe during its seventh season.
- After the death of the original trustees of the Barnes Foundation — a more than \$25 billion art collection, Lincoln was charged with its stewardship, having the right to nominate four of its then-five-member governing board until 2003 when its board was expanded to 15.
- In 2016, Lincoln is ranked 20th in the nation among Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), according to U.S. News & World Report.

First! First! First! Lincoln.