

Coppin State University

Baltimore, Maryland



FALL
CONVOCATION
September 17, 2020
11:00 a.m.

President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D., became the 8th President of Coppin State University (CSU) on May 26, 2020. He is an established higher education leader and advocate committed to creating higher education opportunities for all students, especially culturally under-represented groups.

President Jenkins came to Coppin State University from West Virginia State University (WVSU), a historically black land-grant research university near Charleston, W.V., where he served as president from July 2016 until May 2020. Prior to WVSU, Jenkins was Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and was the Senior Associate Vice President for the University of Central Florida – the nation’s second largest university. His career includes serving at Jackson State University, before joining Virginia Tech’s Housing and Residence Life, and later the Office of the Dean of Students. He remained at Virginia Tech until becoming the Assistant Dean of Students of Northeastern Illinois University. He later served as the Dean of Students at the University of North Carolina Wilmington; and was recruited to serve as the Dean of Students at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised between the nation’s capital and North Carolina, Jenkins is a proponent for education and public policy issues. He has fostered meaningful dialogue within the national higher education community. His research, speeches, and publications focus on crisis management, enrollment and retention, diversity, African American male initiatives, first-generation college student success, state funding for higher education, mentoring, and high-risk college campus behavior such as alcohol consumption and sexual misconduct. Throughout his career, he has enhanced the quality of the college experience for students, developed and successfully implemented comprehensive retention and enrollment plans leading to greater access, opportunity and higher graduation rates; thereby enabling more individuals to improve their quality of life by earning a college education.

A United States Army veteran, President Jenkins began his path to higher education as a first-generation college graduate of Fayetteville State University. He earned a master’s degree from North Carolina Central University and a doctorate from Virginia Tech University.

A supporter of quality higher education, he has served as a site evaluator for the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE). He has been inducted into several of the most prestigious academic honor, business, and leadership societies in the Nation: Alpha Kappa Psi; Kappa Phi; Sigma Alpha Pi; Alpha Sigma Lambda; Omicron Delta Kappa; Alpha Phi Sigma; and Order of Omega.

Jenkins is married to Toinette Jenkins, and they have two daughters.

Fanny Jackson Coppin

Teacher, principal, lecturer, missionary to Africa, warrior against the cruelest oppression, Fanny Jackson Coppin conquered overwhelming obstacles and became the beacon by which future generations would set their courses. Born a slave in the nation's capital, the child Fanny was purchased by an aunt. Another aunt took the little girl in, but Fanny had to go out and work as a domestic, getting schooling whenever she could. By age fourteen she was supporting herself in Newport, Rhode Island, and struggling for education. "It was in me," she wrote years later, "to get an education and to teach my people. This idea was deep in my soul."

She attended Rhode Island State Normal School and then Oberlin College, where her achievements were amazing. She was the first black person chosen to be a pupil-teacher there. In her senior year she organized evening classes to teach freedmen.

After her graduation in 1865, Fanny Jackson was appointed at the Institute for Colored Youth, a Quaker school in Philadelphia. Within four years, she was made head principal, from which position she influenced two generations of young people. In a letter to Frederick Douglass in 1876, she explained her commitment. "I feel sometimes like a person to whom in childhood was entrusted some sacred flame...This is the desire to see my race lifted out of the mire of ignorance, weakness and degradation; no longer to sit in obscure corners and devour the scraps of knowledge which his superiors flung at him. I want to see him crowned with strength and dignity; adorned with the enduring grace of intellectual attainments."

Her school was centered on this dream. She expanded the curriculum to include an Industrial Department, established a Women's Industrial Exchange to display the mechanical and artistic works of young women, and founded a Home for Girls and Young Women to house workers from out of town. Moreover, she persuaded employers to hire her pupils in capacities, which would utilize their education.

In 1881, she married Rev. Levi J. Coppin, a prominent A.M.E. minister, and together they were a driving force in black America. She continued her work at the school but added missionary work to her interests. Mrs. Coppin retired from her beloved school in 1902 at age 65 and began a new career. She accompanied her husband, now a bishop, to Cape Town, South Africa, where she was an effective missionary, counseling African women. She returned to Philadelphia in 1907, broken in health but not in spirit. In her last years she completed her autobiography, *Reminiscences of School Life*, which remains a record of a remarkable life. Fanny Jackson Coppin died in 1913 at age 76.

Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was her influence on her students. She prodded them toward excellence. She made them dream. She made them become more than they ever thought they could. Fanny Jackson Coppin was, indeed, a model of academic excellence—both in her life and in the heritage, which she has bequeathed those who followed.

We note here that our mentor's name has been the subject of mild controversy: different sources have listed her middle name as Muriel, Miriam, and Marion, and her first name has been variously spelled as Fannie and Fanny. Because the Oberlin College records consistently list her name as Fanny Marion Jackson, we are assuming that Marion is her most likely name. Her autobiography, Reminiscences of School Life, and Hints on Teaching (1913), as well as the Oberlin records and other contemporary sources, spell her name with a "y"; other sources, perhaps less authoritative, spell it with an "ie" Therefore, present and future references to Mrs. Coppin will be based on authoritative sources and the name Fanny Marion Jackson Coppin will be used.

CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES IN COPPIN'S HISTORY

- 1900 The Baltimore Board of School Commissioners establishes a one-year training program to prepare Black elementary school teachers.
- 1901 Dr. Hugh M. Brown is appointed head of the Normal Department of the Colored High and Training School (Hereafter: NDCTS).
- 1902 The NDCTS becomes a two-year Normal School program within the colored High School (later Frederick Douglass High School). Dr. James W. Waring is appointed principal.
- 1909 The NDCTS is separated from Frederick Douglass High School and is assigned its own principal, Dr. Joseph H. Lockerman.
- 1926 The NDCTS is named *Fanny Jackson Coppin Normal School*.
- 1926 Dr. Miles Washington Connor is appointed principal of Fanny Jackson Coppin Normal School.
- 1939 The Fanny Jackson Coppin Normal School becomes *Coppin Teachers College* and is granted authority to award the four-year Bachelor of Science degree.
- 1950 Coppin Teachers College is transferred to the Maryland State Department of Education, joining the State system and thereby receiving support from the legislative appropriations arm of Maryland. Coppin Teachers College is changed to *Coppin State Teachers College*. Dr. Miles W. Connor is named president.
- 1952 Coppin State Teachers College moves to its present location on North Avenue. Connor Hall houses all college programs.
- 1956 Dr. Parlett Longworth Moore is appointed president of Coppin State Teachers College.
- 1963 Coppin State Teachers College becomes *Coppin State College* under the Board of Trustees of Maryland State Universities and Colleges.
- 1967 Coppin State College awards its first Bachelor of Arts degrees. New programs are developed leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Education degrees.
- 1970 Dr. Calvin Wilkes Burnett is appointed president of Coppin State College.
- 1988 Coppin State College joins the University of Maryland System (later renamed the *University System of Maryland*).
- 1993 Coppin State College opens its first residence life facility, Dr. Flossie Dedmond Hall.
- 2001 Coppin State College opens its second residence life facility, Dr. Guilbert A. Daley Hall.
- 2003 Dr. Stanley Fred Battle is appointed president of Coppin State College.
- 2004 Coppin State College is renamed *Coppin State University* by the General Assembly of Maryland.
- 2007 Dr. Sadie Randolph Gregory is appointed interim president at Coppin State University, the first female to serve in that capacity in the University's 107-year history.
- 2007 Dr. Reginald Stanley Avery is appointed president of Coppin State University.
- 2013 Dr. Mortimer H. Neufville is appointed interim president (January 23, 2013) of Coppin State University.
- 2013 Dr. Mortimer H. Neufville is appointed president (July 10, 2013) of Coppin State University.
- 2015 Dr. Maria Thompson is appointed president of Coppin State University.
- 2019 Dr. Mickey L. Burnim is appointed interim president of Coppin State University
- 2020 Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins is appointed president of Coppin State University

Academic Convocation 2020
September 17, 2020
Dr. Leontye Lewis, Provost, Presiding

Processional..... *War March of the Priests* by Felix Mendelsohn

Anthem..... *The Star-Spangled Banner*..... by Frances Scott Key
The Audience

Anthem of Resolve..... *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by James Weldon Johnson
The Audience

Welcome Dr. Leontye L. Lewis

Student Government Association Welcome Miss Essence Bennett
SGA President 2020-21

Introduction of President..... Dr. Leontye L. Lewis

President's MessageDr. Anthony L. Jenkins

Alma Mater. *Hail to Thee Coppin*..... Carloyd Thomas
Arranged by Frances Ridout
The Audience

Recessional..... *Trumpet Voluntary*Jeremiah Clarke

The Star-Spangled Banner

by Francis Scott Key
(The first verse)

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by James Weldon Johnson
(The first verse)

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

The Alma Mater

("HAIL TO THEE, COPPIN")
Words by Dr. Miles W. Connor

Hail to thee, Coppin, our alma mater true,
We raise our song to thee with hearts anew;
Thy name has been our pride,
Thy light has been our guide,
Leading us ever on
Through all the years.
Hail to thee, Coppin, our alma mater true,
Emblem of light and love, our gold and blue.
Here at thy shrine we bow,
Gladly to make our vow
That we shall always stand
Loyal to thee.