

Keynote Speaker: Bakari Sellers

Nationally Acclaimed Political Commentator, Legislative Trailblazer
and Voice for Justice

Bakari Sellers made history in 2006 when, at just 22 years old, he defeated a 26-year incumbent State Representative to become the youngest member of the South Carolina State Legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the nation.

In 2014, Sellers won the Democratic nomination for Lt. Governor and is widely considered to be a rising star within the Democratic Party and a leading voice for his generation. Sellers earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College. While at Morehouse College, Sellers was elected Student Government Association President and, by virtue of his position, served on the College's Board of Trustees. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law and soon entered politics, working for United States Congressman James Clyburn, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, and the Southeastern Regional Director of the NAACP.



Bakari Sellers, Esq.

With the strong moral and ethical grounding of his parents and grandparents, the never-ending thirst for education of his mother, and the undying passion for equal opportunity of his father, Sellers' legacy of walking in faith, while creating change that benefits all persons — no matter the race, color, or creed has resonated across the nation with his insightful and thoughtful political commentary. Sellers has followed in the footsteps of his father, civil rights leader, Dr. Cleveland Sellers, in his tireless commitment to public service while championing progressive policies to address issues ranging from education and poverty to preventing domestic violence and childhood obesity.

In addition to his impressive list of early accomplishments, Sellers served on President Barack Obama's South Carolina steering committee during the 2008 election. That coupled with his uncommon ability to reach across the aisle and get things done has led to numerous accolades including being named to TIME Magazine's "40 Under 40" in 2010 as well as 2014's "The Root 100" list of the nation's most influential African Americans. He has served as a featured speaker at events for the National Education Association, College Democrats of America National Convention, the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Viewing himself, not as a politician, but as a public servant, Sellers is a passionate keynote speaker on civil rights, equality, education, and faith. He is a sought after public speaker and has provided political and social commentary and analysis on many major national news outlets.

Sellers practices law with the Strom Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, SC and is a political commentator at CNN. He is married to Dr. Ellen Rucker-Sellers.

Fifty-Fifth Annual Commencement



ST. CROIX
Thursday, the Sixteenth of May
Two Thousand and Nineteen
One O'clock in the Afternoon
Albert A. Sheen Campus
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. THOMAS
Friday, the Seventeenth of May
Two Thousand and Nineteen
One O'clock in the Afternoon
UVI Sports and Fitness Center
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands