

CRYSTAL A. deGREGORY

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A historian and storyteller whose research interests include Black higher education and college student activism, DR. CRYSTAL A. deGREGORY is a research fellow at Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Known for her collaborative advocacy and entrepreneurial leadership, she is the founder and editor of two digital storytelling projects, HBCUstory and Dorian and Beyond, the story of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas.

A proud native of The Bahamas and a Phi Beta Kappa alumna of the historic Fisk University, she also earned Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in history from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Education from Tennessee State University. Among her myriad professional and civic affiliations is trusteeship of The Tennessee Historical Society and membership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Hailed "young sister leader" by Spelman College and Bennett College President Emerita Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, deGregory's publishing includes the forward to *Heritage & Honor: 150-Year Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers*, op-eds "Here in the Bahamas, Every Generation Has Its Storm Stories. The Tale of Hurricane Dorian Is Still Being Written" and "How the Black Colleges Beyoncé Honors in Homecoming Have Played a Vital Role in American History" for *TIME*. She has written chapters featured in numerous books including "Their Highest Calling: The Progressive Ethos of Black College Women in Nashville," in the forthcoming book *The Work of Tennessee Progressive Era Women*. She is also editor-in-chief of *The Journal of HBCU Research + Culture*, an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal which publishes scholarly articles relating to HBCUs.

A gifted orator and sought-after commentator, Dr. deGregory offers a wide range of expertise on multiple topics including history, culture, education, black fraternity and sorority life, and of course, HBCUs. Dr. deGregory has presented to audiences at TEDx, SXSWedu, the Southern Festival of Books, the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Public Television, The New School, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, Ford, Nissan North America, National Institutes of Health, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She has also given talks and served on panels for Alcorn State, Edward Waters, Fisk, Florida Memorial, Harvard, Howard, Michigan-Ann Arbor, Tennessee State, Vanderbilt, Wilberforce universities.

In addition to regular contributions to HBCUstory.org, Dr. deGregory's words have appeared in *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *USA Today*, *The Tennessean*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Market Watch*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The State Journal*, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, *The Key Reporter*, *Nashville Scene*, *The Atlanta Voice*, *Tri-City Defender*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *EducationDIVE*, *INSIGHT Into Diversity*, *The Nation*, *The Feminist Wire* and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

A finalist for the HBCU Awards "Alumna of the Year" recognition, Dr. deGregory was the recipient of the Fisk University "Women of Prominence" award, her high school's 50th Anniversary "Golden Warriors" award, and was recognized as the "Hope Dealer of the Year" by the Washington, D.C.-based The H.O.P.E. Scholarship Initiative.