

# PAUL QUINN

## MEDIA ALERT

### **Paul Quinn College Celebrates 151st Commencement with Celebrated Alumni LaMontria Edwards and Patrick J. Hillard, Sr. as Speakers**

*Graduating Students Will Be Surprised During Commencement with Gift That Will Make Lasting Impact for Students' Future*

**WHAT:** Paul Quinn College, America's only Urban Work College and one of the most celebrated colleges in the country, will celebrate its 151st Commencement this Saturday, May 6. Celebrated alumni LaMontria Edwards and Patrick J. Hillard, Sr. will serve as co-commencement speakers. During commencement, Paul Quinn will make a surprise announcement for the graduating class.

"We are honored to have two of our beloved alumni sharing the Commencement speaker role this year," said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, president of Paul Quinn College. "LaMontria and Patrick are special, special people who, while only in the early stages of their careers, are extraordinary talents, with unique gifts. They represent two of our best and we are excited to welcome them back in this capacity."

#### **WHO:**

- Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, president, Paul Quinn College
- LaMontria Edwards, CEO, Mirror Maddness Inc.
- Patrick J. Hillard, Sr., litigation attorney, Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 6, at 8:00 a.m. CT

**WHERE:** Paul Quinn Campus, Richard Allen Chapel Lawn, 3837 Simpson Stuart Rd, Dallas, TX 75241

#### **Student Available for Interview:**

**Andrea Maldonado** is a first-generation college student and member of Paul Quinn's Corporate Work Program where she interned at JP Morgan Chase, Lyda Hill Philanthropies and Velocis private equity. A Vistra Foundation Paul Quinn College Presidential Scholar, Maldonado will be the first student to graduate with a banking and finance degree.

#### **Speaker Bios:**

**LaMontria Edwards** is the CEO of Mirror Maddness Inc. a non-profit she founded at the age of 16. LaMontria is a well-respected member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and an alumna of Paul Quinn College, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in legal

studies and criminology. During her time at Paul Quinn College, Edwards was SGA President and held many leadership positions across campus.

**Patrick J. Hillard, Sr.** is an attorney in the litigation department of Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC—one of the oldest and most respected firms in Memphis, Tennessee, and a 2012 graduate of Paul Quinn. During his time at Paul Quinn College, Patrick was SGA President, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and graduated as valedictorian. He is a graduate of the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, where he was a Herff Presidential Scholar.

### **About Paul Quinn College**

Paul Quinn College is a private, faith-based, four-year, liberal arts-inspired college that was founded in 1872, by a group of African Methodist Episcopal Church preachers in Austin, Texas. The school's original purpose was to educate freed slaves and their offspring. Today, Paul Quinn proudly educates students of all races and socio-economic classes under the banner of its institutional ethos, WE over Me. It is the first Urban Work College and only minority-serving, federally-recognized work college in America. Paul Quinn is viewed as one of the most innovative colleges in America, one that continuously expands the boundaries of higher education and community advocacy in its quest to eradicate intergenerational poverty. For more information, visit [www.paulquinn.edu](http://www.paulquinn.edu).

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### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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