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Black History Month at Lindenwood University Starts with Clifton L. Taulbert

Taulbert is a well-respected African-American Author, Entrepreneur, and Speaker.

January 16, 2019 – Pulitzer Prize nominated author, entrepreneur, and speaker, [Clifton L. Taulbert](http://www.cliftontaulbert.com) will kick-off Black History Month and Diversity Week at [Lindenwood University](http://www.lindenwood.edu) on February 4 with several activities and the public is invited.

Taulbert was last at Lindenwood in November 2018 for the university's first-ever [Entrepreneurship Week](http://www.lindenwood.edu/entrepreneurship-week). Taulbert is the owner of [ROOTS JAVA Coffee Company](http://www.rootsjava.com), the only African-American wholly owned coffee company in America. Lindenwood will begin serving ROOTS JAVA coffee on its St. Charles campus throughout the month of February. Taulbert will share the first "ceremonial" cup of coffee with Lindenwood University System President, Dr. Michael Shonrock, at 10 a.m. on February 4 in the Lion's Pride Market Express (Harmon Hall, lower level), and will be available to talk with those gathered about his experiences and sign books.

With more than a dozen books in print, Taulbert is an internationally-known author. His book, "[Once Upon a Time When We were Colored](http://www.onceuponatime.com)," was made into a major movie. Upon his release from prison, Nelson Mandela requested a copy of this book, and the book was a permanent fixture on his desk until he died. "[The Last Train North](http://www.thelasttrainnorth.com)," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and won the Doubleday Book Award and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award, a first for an African-American author. This book chronicles Taulbert's time in St. Louis during the riots of the 1960s. Taulbert's employment at Jefferson Bank and Trust played an interesting role in ending the unrest in St. Louis.

During the afternoon of February 4, from 2 to 3 p.m., Taulbert will speak in Dunseth Auditorium in Harmon Hall on the Lindenwood St. Charles campus. His talk, titled, "Our Stories. Our Lives. Our Times. Good People ought not be Strangers," will take his audience on an incredible journey from the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta, to the Assembly Hall of the United Nations. He will also discuss his research on the little-known history of the rise and fall of Tulsa, Oklahoma's black community known as [Black Wall Street](http://www.blackwallstreet.com), where early seeds of entrepreneurship and innovation were sown.

Taulbert will close his talk with a story about an unexpected invitation to supper at [Roselawn](http://www.roselawn.com), an 18th century plantation in South Carolina. This event led to a five-year journey for Taulbert, resulting in his book "[The Invitation](http://www.theinvitation.com)," which is a clarion call for "good people to not be strangers."

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Taulbert will address members of the [Heartland St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce](#) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the [William J. Harrison Center](#), located at 3140 Cass Avenue in St. Louis.

All events are made possible by [The Duree Center for Entrepreneurship](#) at Lindenwood University, located in the [Hammond Institute](#) and the [Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship](#). For more information, please contact Craig Felzien at CFelzien1@lindenwood.edu or 636-949-4432.

For further details about The John W. Hammond Institute for Free Enterprise, please visit online at www.Hammond.Institute or call Carol Felzien in Lindenwood's St. Charles Administrative office at 636-627-2915 or connect via email at CFelzien@lindenwood.edu.

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The Hammond Institute for Free Enterprise at Lindenwood University is located in the Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship. It is structured based on the concept of three focus areas – *Ethics, Economics and Entrepreneurship* -- managed by the following leadership team:

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The Hammond Institute is a research center at Lindenwood University. Its mission is to foster free enterprise and civil and religious liberty through the examination of market-oriented approaches to economic and social issues. This mission is based on the view that a limited government, such as that laid out in the Constitutional foundation of the United States, is a necessary component of a just and prosperous society.