



## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY 2015 SPRING COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA  
FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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### 2015 Spring Commencement Events Order of the Engineer Speaker -- May 8, 2015 -- 3:00 p.m.

#### MICHELE WISE-WRIGHT, PH.D.

Senior Director of the National Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Association  
and former CEO of the American Red Cross for the Greater Ozarks-Arkansas Region

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Michele Wise-Wright, Ph.D. (formerly Michele R. Wise) is a native of Tuskegee, Alabama and the daughter of Tuskegee lifelong residents Frankie Wise and Garland Wise who graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 (Bachelor's Degree) and 1964 (Master's Degree) and currently serves as the Graduate and Professional Advisor and Pre-Health Advisor for Tuskegee University's Department of Biology.

Commemorating 25 years, Dr. Wright graduated in May 1990 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering (Magna Cum Laude) and with the notable honor of "Electrical Engineering Student of the Year." While at Tuskegee, she was a distinguished Martin Marietta Cooperative Education Student and Scholar, a Student Leadership Award winner, Miss Engineering, Miss Society of Women Engineers, Miss United Negro College Fund, a National Collegiate Engineering Award winner, and a member and Senior officer of numerous National Honor Societies, including Alpha Kappa Mu General Honor Society, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society, Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society, and Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society.

Dr. Wright holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee Space Institute, where she chartered the National Society of Black Engineers and has the distinction of becoming UTSI's first full-time African-American student to earn a Master's Degree in Engineering Management/Industrial Engineering; and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, with a double specialization in Health and Leadership Policy.

Dr. Wright is a multi-dimensional Senior Executive with experience providing dynamic leadership in diverse roles, including healthcare administration and business development to a prominent international non-profit as well as Fortune 100 companies. She currently serves as the Senior Director of the National Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Association (NBPA) and formerly served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Greater Ozarks-Arkansas Region with the American Red Cross. She is also the past recipient of Sister Friends United, Inc. "Women of Excellence" Inaugural Service Award as well as the organization's Business Award.

A top-performing National and International multiple award-winning Corporate Leader, Dr. Wright has worked with Fortune 500 organizations including Genentech Biotech Company, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and The Procter and Gamble Company. She has a successful track record in increasing productivity, inventory accuracy, operational efficiency, and cost reductions as an engineer and has an impressive top sales performance in food, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sales. She is an expert in project, team, and total quality management.

Her extensive research of some of America's most outstanding women achievers served as inspiration for her book "DEAR SUCCESS SEEKER: Wisdom from Outstanding Women" (Atria/Simon & Schuster) which received the 2011-12 USA "Best Books" Award for "Best New Non-Fiction" and has allowed her to leverage what she has learned about success to benefit corporations, organizations and educational facilities worldwide. Dr. Wright lives in North Little Rock, Arkansas with her husband Terry G. Wright.



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