



FALL 2025 FRESHMAN MATRICULATION
CONVOCATION

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 | 10 A.M.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER

FALL 2025 CONVOCATION

Presiding

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Prelude.....Bowie State University Symphony of Soul Marching Band
Billy R. Bennett, Director, University Bands

Academic Processional

Posting of Colors.....Bowie State University Army ROTC
Lt. Col. Roger Dominique, Commander

"The Star-Spangled Banner"

F. Scott Key, arr. Mark HayesPerformed by the Combined Voices
of Bowie State University
Directed by Professor Latonya Wrenn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Johnson and Johnson, arr. Brandon Felder.....Performed by the Combined Voices
of Bowie State University

Moment of Centering..... Professor Barbara Smith, Mace Bearer & Grand Marshal

Official Opening of the Academic Year..... Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou

Greetings Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, President, Bowie State University
Jade Ward, President, Student Government Association
Ephonia Green, Past President, Graduate Student Association

"Golden"

Jill Scott..... Performed by Symphony of Soul Marching Band

Introduction of Speaker.....Dr. Aminta H. Breaux

Keynote Address

Dr. James "JJ" Hairston..... Renowned Gospel Artist, Worship Leader,
Songwriter & Pastor

"Deserved and Thankful"Performed by the Combined Voices
Dr. JJ Hairston, arr. Brandon Felder of Bowie State University

Installation of Student Officers.....Dr. Amani Jennings
Dean of Students, Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

Oath of Office & Medallion CeremonyChanel Curry, Vice President
Student Government Association

The Alma MaterPerformed by the Combined Voices of Bowie State University

Retiring of Colors..... Bowie State University Army ROTC

Academic Recessional & Postlude.....Performed by Symphony of Soul
Marching Band

CONVOCATION SPEAKER



DR. JAMES "JJ" HAIRSTON

Gospel Artist, Pastor & Songwriter

Dr. JJ Hairston is a renowned gospel artist, worship leader, songwriter and pastor whose music and ministry has inspired millions worldwide. Known for his powerful lyrics and passion for God's presence, he first gained national acclaim as the director of the gospel choir Youthful Praise, releasing hits like "You Deserve It," "Incredible God," "Incredible Praise" and "No Reason to Fear."

Alongside his wife, Pastor Trina Hairston, he serves as senior pastor of The Gathering Place DC, where they are dedicated to transforming lives through faith, love and service. His work has earned him numerous accolades,

including Stellar and Dove Awards and a Grammy nomination.

Whether through worship or the word, Pastor JJ Hairston's mission is simple: to glorify God and lead others into deeper fellowship with Him.



Alma Mater

Charlotte B. Robinson

There's a spot in my heart that never goes cold.
There's a place in my memory that never grows old.
There's a prayer on my lips, that I'll ever be true
To God and my country
To Bowie State, my school.

Refrain

Oh, Bowie State, dear Bowie State
May you forever be the flame of faith,
The torch of truth
To guide the steps of youth.
There's a song in my heart that I'll ever sing
Of the beauties of Bowie State that each season brings.
There's a pledge in my heart that I'll ever keep true
To uphold the standards of Bowie State, my school.

A special thank you to the Fall Matriculation Convocation Committee and
our community partners for their hard work in preparing this event.



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