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(Note: The article below is a reprint that appeared in the Spring 2020 issue of “The AERA Voice!” The Annual Meeting was cancelled in May 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.)

DR. QUINTON T. ROSS, PRESIDENT OF ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE THE 2021 AERA ANNUAL LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., currently serves as the 15th president of Alabama State University. Prior to becoming president of his alma mater, he had begun his fourth term in the Alabama State Senate after having been elected to his first term in 2002. While serving in the Senate, Dr. Ross distinguished himself as a true statesman and was one of seven African Americans serving in the Alabama State Senate. In 2015, he was elected as the first African American male Senate Minority Leader and the first Minority Leader elected to a four-year term. Dr. Ross was an established legislative leader and an unwavering advocate for public education, issues dealing with child safety and the general welfare of all Alabamians. Throughout his legislative tenure, Dr. Ross served on numerous committees, including Bank and Insurance; Confirmation, County and Municipal Government; Transportation and Energy; Military Affairs; and the Finance and Taxation Education Committee. He was also Vice Chair of the Education Youth Affairs Committee.

Dr. Ross is a distinguished



DR. QUINTON T. ROSS, JR.

career educator with more than 23 years of experience in K-12 public education and higher education. Dr. Ross worked in the Montgomery Public School System as a classroom teacher, administrative assistant, assistant principal, high school principal, and central office Educational Specialist. He also served as the Director of Adult Education at H. Councill Trenholm State Community College. Dr. Ross later became a manager of UniServ Organizing/Staff Consultant to Higher Education for the Alabama Education Association.

Dr. Ross has made it his mission to be a community advocate for public education and to help young people "grasp the light of knowledge through embracing diversity."

Dr. Ross has received numerous awards and recognitions, and has been featured in many publications. He has been honored for his commitment to equity and quality in education. His awards include: *The Montgomery Advertiser* "King Spirit Award," the Alabama School Board Association's "Power of One Award (2009)," the Daring to Make a Difference "Community Service Award," the Alabama Adult Education Director's Association "2012 Champion Award," among others. Dr. Ross was also selected by the Business Council of Alabama as a "2017 Business Champion."

Dr. Ross holds professional memberships in several organizations including the National Education Association, National Council of Higher Education, Alabama Education Association, and others.

Dr. Ross' most notable accomplishments are being a loving husband and father of two sons.

**See Page 5 for more 2021
Annual Meeting Information!**