

Andrew College

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2017

Andrew College announces 2017 Commencement program

CUTHBERT, GA. – Senator Freddie Powell Sims, a native of Talbot County, Georgia, will give the keynote address during this year's Andrew College Commencement ceremony. Senator Sims was elected to the State Senate in 2008 to represent the 12th Senatorial District.

Senator Sims serves as secretary of the Education and Youth Committee, Vice Chairman of Interstate Cooperation and is a member of the Appropriations, Retirement and Natural Resources and the Environment committees. She also has received special appointments to the Child Welfare Reform Council and the Long Term Aquifer Storage Study Committee.

Although this is her second legislative role, her community, civic and professional involvement has been extensive. She is a frequent called upon speaker and is the recipient of many awards and certificates, including the 2004 Outstanding Financial Contributions to Capital Campaign award for Fort Valley State University and the 2008 Outstanding Legislator of the Year award for technical and adult education.

Senator Sims' desire to serve the public, more specifically to provide a voice for those citizens who do not seem to have one, called her to politics. Sims is a retired middle school principal and a devout Baptist. She attends Shilo Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. and is married to Norman Sims. The couple shares 3 daughters.

Senator Sims received a BS in Social Sciences and Social Studies Education from Fort Valley State University as well as her MED in Elementary Education from Georgia State University. She also holds a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota.

As a special part of the Commencement ceremony, Fletcher Henderson, Jr., will be honored with a posthumously Honorary Doctor of Music degree. Fletcher Henderson, Jr. was born in Cuthbert in 1897. He is considered one of the most influential arrangers and bandleaders in jazz history in America. His band garnered attention and acclaim during the 1920s, and later his arrangements for the bands of Benny Goodman in the 1930s and 40s, were acknowledged. Many giants of the jazz world either got their start with, or played with the Henderson bands of the 1920s, including Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hawkins, Benny Carter and Roy Eldridge. Henderson died on December 28, 1952 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Cuthbert, Georgia. His life's work is a source of pride for the City of Cuthbert, Andrew College and the great State of Georgia.

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 6, at 1:30 p.m. in the Jinks Gymnasium.

Andrew College will hold a Baccalaureate ceremony in conjunction with Commencement. It will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, in the United Methodist Church in Cuthbert. Speaker will be Rev. Michael McCord, executive director of the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

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Established in 1854, Andrew College is a two-year College related to The United Methodist Church and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Situated in the rural southwest Georgia community of Cuthbert, Andrew College offers the Associate of Art, Associate of Music, and Associate of Science degrees.