

From the Desk of the President

September 2026



GAWHE Family,

As we step into September, I am reminded that there are seasons when we prepare, seasons when we wait, and seasons when we must move. For GAWHE, it's time to move forward, move upward, and move together.

Our 2027 Annual Conference is quickly approaching, and I am excited as we prepare to gather February 18–19, 2027, at Savannah State University.

IT'S TIME.

It's time to reconnect.

It's time to grow.

It's time to lead.

It's time to share what we know.

And it's time to make room for the women who will come after us.

I encourage you to begin making plans now to join us in Savannah. This conference will be an opportunity to strengthen relationships, expand our professional networks, sharpen our leadership, and celebrate the collective impact of women throughout higher education.

I also encourage our members to answer the Call for Proposals and consider presenting. Your knowledge matters. Your research matters. Your professional experiences matter. Your story matters. You do not have to hold the highest title in your organization to have something valuable to contribute. Whatever your area of expertise, there is room for your voice at GAWHE.

This year, let's move beyond simply attending. Let's participate, contribute, connect, mentor, learn, and lead. There is something powerful that happens when women intentionally create space for one another to grow. When one woman advances, she can reach back. When one woman discovers her voice, she can encourage another to use hers. Together, our experiences, talents, and perspectives strengthen GAWHE and the communities we serve.

As we move through September, I leave you with one question:
What is it time for you to do?
Is it time to submit that proposal?
Time to step into leadership?
Time to find a mentor or become one?
Time to reconnect with GAWHE?
Or perhaps, simply, time to believe that you belong in the room?

Whatever your answer may be, I hope you will act on it. Savannah is waiting. And GAWHE is moving forward.

I cannot wait to see what happens when we collectively decide:
It's Time.

With Purpose and Anticipation,

Dr. Shontell Stanford

Dr. Shontell Stanford
President, Georgia Association for Women in Higher
Education