

# MARRIX D. SEYMORE, SR., PH.D.

Dean of Education - Rust College, Holly Springs, MS.

*Topic: Navigating Change from the Pulpit*

*Summary:* Every successful administrator is proficient and confident in his/her administrative skills. Developing those skills needed to navigate change that affects Ministry is key to ministry success. When it comes to putting in the work of developing one's self professionally, there should be evidence that pastors and church leaders are talking about it, working on it, living in it, or transforming with it. In this session, participants will explore essential skills used by successful administrators to manage change, even when in crisis.

---



Dr. Seymore is a career educator, a leader, a continuous improvement coach, a performance strategist, and the author of, “The Urgency of Knowing: Ten Things Every Black Man Must Know.” He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education degree in Administration Leadership, respectively from Prairie View A&M University of Texas. Seymore also earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership from Northcentral University of California. His dissertation topic was, “The Impact of a Pastor’s Education on the Growth of a Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.”

Diverse by geography, Dr. Seymore has served students, teachers, and executive officers at both the PK-12 and higher education levels throughout Texas, Georgia, Maryland and Missouri, and now Mississippi. Progressive in experiences, he developed strong student-centered educational programs; implemented programming for a national comprehensive school reform collaborative through Project GRAD Atlanta; managed high school reform through the federally funded Smaller Learning Communities initiative; directed 29 federal programs as the Title III Administrator, restructured an Educator Preparation Program; instituted online learning, while revitalizing a Graduate Studies Program as Dean of Education; and supported Educator Preparation Program at selected minority serving institutions as a Continuous Improvement Coach with the Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity in Texas.

Dr. Seymore’s academic and administrative philosophies are inextricably aligned with creating a pipeline of highly qualified educators of color through innovative, data-driven, educator preparation programming. He is the immediate past Dean of Education at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. There, Dr. Seymore founded The Academy for Men of Color in Education at Lincoln, an intrusive mentoring program aimed to attract, support, and graduate qualified Black men as professional educators to classrooms throughout the nation. He currently serves as the Dean of Education at Rust College of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Dr. Seymore is an ordained Elder and Dean of Leadership Development with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for educators; the 100 Black Men of the America; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporate; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dr. Seymore is a proud father of two sons, Marris II and Johnston Alexander Seymore, also educators. He lives by the mission of being an ambassador of vision; uniquely molded to glorify God, equipped to edify His people, and commanded to empower them to further the Kingdom of God. He executes this mission based on Habakkuk 2:2 “*Write the vision and make it plain!*”