



For Immediate Release

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**Interdenominational Theological Center Celebrates the
Hallmark of a Half-Century of Ecumenical Enterprise**
ITC honors three alumni for the 11th Annual James H. Costen Awards



Dr. Charles Stith, Rev. B. Lance Eden, Rev. Dr. Valerie Green

ATLANTA – Three alumni of the Interdenominational Theological Center will be honored at the 50th Charter Day and 11th Annual James H. Costen Awards Dinner, Friday, April 25, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel.

The Award, named in honor of the fifth president of ITC, recognizes individuals who have excelled in fields to include business, civic and community affairs, government, religion, and education. The alumni being recognized are Rev. B. Lance Eden and Rev. Dr. Valerie Green as Emerging Leaders and Dr. Charles Stith will receive the President's Award.

“Not only do the paramount achievements that these alumni have made bring especial recognition to this institution, but I also we also take great pride in honoring those community leaders who serve with such vigor and commitment – in the same pursuit of excellence as my predecessor, Dr. Costen.” said Michael Battle, president of ITC. “They represent the epitome of our legacy and our future.”

Dr. Valerie Green, an honors graduate from ITC's Baptist seminary, Morehouse School of Religion and recipient of the James H. Costen Emerging Leader Award, is making history as the first female university chaplain in the 153-year history of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, the oldest historically Black college/university (HBCU). In addition to her myriad of duties in this position, she also remains in day-to-day contact with her students by serving as an adjunct professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Additionally, she serves as on-campus advisor for the Lincoln University Gospel Choir and the Student Government Association.

Rev. B. Lance Eden is a 2005 graduate from ITC's United Methodist school, Gammon Theological Seminary, and the second recipient of the James H. Costen Emerging Leader Award.

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Rev. Eden started his first appointment at the age of 26 years old, no less than a few months later in his pastorate, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. After being offered the opportunity to be reassigned, he refused to leave his church, the people and the city of New Orleans. In the months following Hurricane Katrina, 4000 families were served through the distribution center of the church, and for almost two years it has housed 100 volunteers, who gutted over 450 homes and have restored close to 300 homes. As a pastor, Rev. Eden as worked in the New Orleans Mission Zone and also in Cooperative Ministry working on Pastoral teams with three other pastors.

Ambassador Charles Stith, a 1987 graduate from Gammon Theological Seminary, who will receive the President's Award, is the Director of the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University. Prior to this position he was the Ambassador to Tanzania and having been presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the United Republic of Tanzania in September 1998.

He served as the Ambassador in the traumatic period after the August 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Dar es Salaam. He is also the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of South Carolina, Clark Atlanta University and Baker University.

The other distinguished honorees include: Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor (Religion), Mayor C. Jack Ellis (Government), Mr. Danny Glover (Civic and Community Affairs), Dr. David Satcher (Education), Ms. Scarlet Pressley Brown (Business), Rev. Barbara King (Trail Blazer) and Ms. Sallie Pope Howard, *Travelin' Shoes* Award.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and the awards dinner, go to www.itc.edu or contact Jane Jelks Jones at jjones@itc.edu or (404) 527-7718.

