

Wintley Augustus Phipps

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*
May 8, 2021



Wintley A. Phipps is an education activist, motivational speaker, author, pastor and world-renowned vocal artist. For more than 38 years, he has delivered messages of hope, advocacy and equality to thousands during his travels around the world.

Phipps earned a Bachelor of Arts in theology from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Additionally, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Waynesburg University and MidAmerica Nazarene University, an honorary Doctor of Laws from Oakwood University and an honorary Doctor of Education from Wheelock College.

Phipps has served as assistant to the president at Oakwood College as well as Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland, and associate director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland.

He has been an active participant in a number of organizations, including Miss America's Outstanding Teen Board of Directors, the Scholarship America Board of Trustees, the Council for Religious Freedom, and Prison Fellowship Ministries.

As a vocalist, Phipps has performed for several notable occasions, including the 2005 inaugural swearing-in ceremony of President George W. Bush, the 2009 and 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Services of President Barack Obama and the funeral of civil rights icon Congressman John Robert Lewis in 2020.

He has also spoken at a variety of events around the world, including lectures in Europe, Australia, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. In recognition of his positive global impact through speaking, the National Speakers Association awarded Phipps the prestigious Master of Influence Award.

Phipps is the founder, president and chief executive officer of U.S. Dream Academy, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides mentoring and tutoring to children of incarcerated parents and children falling behind in school and living in high-risk environments. Since its founding in 1998, the U.S. Dream Academy has served nearly 10,000 students.

Distinguished as one of the oldest afterschool and mentoring organizations, U.S. Dream Academy provides this target population with quality services focused on building dreams, character, perseverance and academic skills. Today, the organization serves youth from grades 2 through 12 in Learning Centers located in San Bernardino, Houston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Orlando and West Valley City.

With the founding of this important work, Phipps has raised the nation's consciousness to the needs of children in some of America's most underprivileged communities. He has received numerous service awards for his work, including The Excellence in Mentoring for Program Leadership Award from MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, the Use Your Life Award from the Oprah Winfrey Angel Network, the Promise Hero Award from America's Promise, the Philanthropist of the Year Award from the National Center for Black Philanthropy, Inc., the Purpose Prize from AARP, the Distinguished Service Award from Loma Linda University and the Ambassador Andrew Young Award for Distinguished Service.

Phipps is married to Linda Diane Galloway Phipps, an RN, and they have three adult sons: Wintley Augustus II, Winston Adriel and Wade Alexander.

For his exemplary leadership in using his skills, positions and qualifications to consistently bring positive change and opportunities to the individuals and communities within his sphere of influence, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Wintley A. Phipps with the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.