



**Pre-Class Week 2017 is right around the corner.**

There are a lot of great activities planned for faculty and staff.

Kicking off the week is an opportunity to **spend An Afternoon with Dr. Eddie Glaude, Chair of the Department for African American Studies at Princeton University.** He will lead a discussion in the Conference Center Auditorium starting at 1:00 PM on the convergence of poverty, social justice, and higher education. Afterwards, there will be a reception in the Conference Center Atrium for all to mingle and share their thoughts from the discussion.

MercerOnline and Dr. Edwards will be leading multiple sessions of **Blackboard, The Next Generation, Plus Grade Center Training.** Whether you are a Blackboard pro or novice, you will want to attend one of these 7 sessions to see how the college will be moving to more fully utilize Blackboard college-wide to improve student success. Additionally, on Thursday, January 12, our Blackboard representative will be on campus to discuss **How Blackboard can be a tool for Student Success.** **Finally, if you haven't attended a Student Planning session, you will have 6 opportunities during Pre-Class week to attend this one-hour introduction to this powerful tool.**

Please use this 123Signup link to register: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=nbbvh>

**Since we are ordering food for The Dr. Glaude Reception from 3:00-5:00PM, we are requesting that you reserve your spot by Friday, January 6, 2017.**

**Happy New Year and Welcome Back!**