

# From Novice to Halftime: Building and Sustaining Participation in a Contemporary Band

## Friday 7:55 AM

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### Introduction Script

Please Note: If the presenter bio(s) below are long, consult with the presenters about crossing out extraneous information so that it only takes you around 15 to 20 seconds to read for each presenter.

Hello and welcome to the 2026 FMEA Professional Development Conference. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the session coordinator for this session.

The title of this session is *From Novice to Halftime: Building and Sustaining Participation in a Contemporary Band*. We are fortunate to have Dontay Douglas as our presenter today.

Dontay L. Douglas is Associate Director of the Trojan Marching Band at the University of Southern California, where he leads preseason training and the creative team for one of the nation's most visible collegiate bands. He formerly served as Assistant Director of Bands and Director of Bengal Brass at Louisiana State University, where he co-produced the Grammy-nominated album Full Circle with Zydeco artist Sean Ardoyn. His career includes leading high school and collegiate bands in Florida and Arkansas, focusing on student engagement through contemporary and culturally relevant programming. A sought-after clinician, drill writer, and presenter, his work has been featured at national conferences and in films like Marvel's *The Falcon* and *the Winter Soldier*. A native of Miami, Florida, Douglas holds a bachelor's degree in music from Florida A&M University and a master's degree in wind band conducting from Florida Atlantic University.

Thank you for being here today, we hope you all enjoy *From Novice to Halftime: Building and Sustaining Participation in a Contemporary Band*!

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### Record Session Attendance:

About half-way through this session, count the number of attendees, and scan this QR Code with your phone to record that number.



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This is a sample of the document that will be in the Presenter Packet you will pick up at the conference registration area.