



## **2020 Alumni Professional Achievement Award Kevin James '01**

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The Alumni Professional Achievement Award recognizes significant contributions alumni have made to their fields while exemplifying high moral and professional ethics.

Kevin James '01 is being honored with the 2020 Alumni Professional Achievement Award for his outstanding accomplishments in higher education.

James has a career that spans over 20 years as a higher education administrator, professor, executive business leader and motivational speaker. He graduated from Winthrop in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech (Communication Disorders) and a minor in Social Sciences. In 2004, he obtained his Masters in Business Management with a concentration in leadership and organizational effectiveness from Troy State University in Alabama. James also received his doctorate degree in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2009. Additionally, he graduated from the Higher Education Institute at Harvard University in 2011.

James currently serves as the 19<sup>th</sup> president of Morris Brown College, a historical Black college in Atlanta, Georgia. He helped re-brand the institution and successfully regained Morris Brown's accreditation candidacy by the Department of Education. Under his leadership, he has stabilized finances; increased fundraising; expanded and revised academic offerings; and led the college in reaching record-breaking enrollment increases from over the past 20 years.

Most recently, James announced Morris Brown's \$30 million partnership with Hilton Hotels Worldwide and CGI Merchant Group to develop a hotel on the college's campus that provides students with hospitality training in the hotel and restaurants industries.

Prior to his position as Morris Brown president, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Psi Kappa Chapter, Winthrop University) member served as interim CEO of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. He previously held academic administrator roles at Claflin, Strayer and Herzing universities as well.

The Columbia, South Carolina, native has been featured on several news outlets including CNN, NewsOne, Forbes, Black Enterprise, The Root, HBCU Times, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Inside Higher Education as well as a number of Atlanta-based media networks.

James was named the 2021 College President of the Year by the Georgia Greater Black Chamber of Commerce and one of Atlanta's Most Powerful Leaders by Atlanta Magazine. Additionally, he received the 4 Brighter Futures Foundation, Inc. Chairman Award, was a Georgia Leadership Character Award nominee and Mentor of the Year for 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.

Among his memberships are Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Golden Key International Honor Society, Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity and 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.