



Meet our Keynote Speaker – James M. Bailey



James serves as Chief Executive Officer for the Atlanta Market of Operation HOPE (HOPE), a global non-profit, public benefit organization; America's leading provider of economic tools, services, and financial dignity for the underserved. Founded in 1992, HOPE has served over 2,400,000 individuals and has directed over 1.6 Billion dollars to support and uplift low-income communities. Over the past 7 years under James' leadership in the Southeast, HOPE has helped over 65, 000 children, adults, and families, understand the language of money, start businesses, purchase homes, and increase their financial dignity.

With more than 15 years' experience with Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurial ventures and nonprofit organizations, James began his journey with HOPE in May of 2007. Prior to that, by age 27, James served as President and CEO of Landmark Global Corporation, a Georgia Based Real Estate and Private Equity firm managing over 7 Million dollars in assets. James' experience also includes sales management posts with Bank of America, Hershey Foods Corporation and Speakeasy Inc, an executive coaching and development firm managing a client book of Fortune 500 companies and Senior Level Executives.

James, an Atlanta native, is a graduate of the University of Georgia and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. He is active in various civic organizations serving on numerous boards including The Wren's Nest, Premier Academy, Safe America Foundation and the Metro Atlanta Chamber Board of Advisors.

James has committed his life to serving others, volunteering as a mentor for the Priority Male Initiative, Youth Entrepreneurs Atlanta, the Atlanta Public Schools R.E.A.L Men Read Program, and most notably serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 100 at the Benjamin S Carson B.E.S.T Academy..

Recognized at the White House as a "Champion of Change" for following in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, selected as one of the 10 Most Outstanding Young People of Atlanta, Who's Who in Black Atlanta and named to Georgia Trend Magazine's 40 Under 40 "Best and Brightest Leaders of the Future". He is a 2011 New Leaders Council Fellow and a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014.

James has received numerous awards and recognition for his dedication, including the Boy Scouts of America, Whitney M. Young National Community Service Medallion, the Martin Luther King Jr, Drum Major for Service Award, New Leaders Council - National Leadership Award, a 2012 Young and Powerful - Rising Star Honoree, Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014 and in 2011 was honored with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award from the Obama Administration.