

THE  
DIAMOND



AWARDS

*Participant Archives*



**GEORGE LUCAS**  
Entertainment Mogul

George Walton Lucas, Jr. (Modesto, California, May 14, 1944) is an American filmmaker, creator of the film sagas of Star Wars and Indiana Jones, and former president of Lucasfilm Limited, LucasArts Entertainment Company, Lucas Digital Ltd, Lucas Licensing, LucasBooks and Lucas Learning Ltd. It was considered, for two consecutive years, the fourth most powerful person in the entertainment industry, behind the owners of Time Warner, Turner and Steven Spielberg.

Upon graduating from the University of Southern California in 1967, Lucas co-founded American Zoetrope with his fellow filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. Lucas wrote and directed THX 1138 (1971), based on his student short Electronic Labyrinth THX 1138 4EB, which was a critical success, but a financial failure. His next job as a screenwriter-director was the movie American Graffiti (1973), inspired by his adolescence in the 1960s in Modesto, California, and produced through the newly created Lucasfilm. The film was a critical and commercial success, and received five nominations to the Academy Award, including Best Picture.

The next film by Lucas, an epic space opera entitled Star Wars (1977), it was a surprise blow, becoming the highest grossing film at that time, as well as winning six Academy Awards and a cultural phenomenon. After the first Star Wars movie, Lucas produced and co-wrote the following installments in the trilogy, The Empire Strikes Back (1980) and The Return of the Jedi (1983). Together with Steven Spielberg, Lucas co-created and helped collaborate with the stories of the Indiana Jones movies.



**RAVEN SYMONE'**  
Actress & Entertainment Mogul

Raven-Symoné born December 10, 1985), also known mononymously as Raven, is an American actress, singer, and songwriter. She has received several accolades, including five NAACP Image Awards, two Kids' Choice Awards, three Young Artist Awards, and three Daytime Emmy Award nominations. In 2012, she was included on VH1's list of "100 Greatest Child Stars of All Time".

Raven-Symoné began her career as a child actress, appearing as Olivia Kendall on The Cosby Show (1989–1992) and

Nicole Lee on Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (1993–1997), both of which earned her a number of awards and nominations. When she was 15 years old, she landed a role of Raven Baxter on the Disney Channel television series That's So Raven (2003–2007), for which she was nominated for numerous accolades. Her film credits include Dr. Dolittle (1998), its sequel Dr. Dolittle 2 (2001), The Princess Diaries 2 (2004), and College Road Trip (2008), which were all box office successes. Her television film credits include Zenon: Girl of the 21st Century (1999), its second sequel Zenon: Z3 (2004), The Cheetah Girls (2003), its sequel The Cheetah Girls 2 (2006). Raven-Symoné has also lent her voice to the animated series Kim Possible for the character Monique, and films such as Tinker Bell (2008). Raven-Symoné has reprised her role as Raven Baxter on Raven's Home (2017–present), for which she was nominated for the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Performer in Children's Programming.

She was also a co-host of the ABC daytime talk show The View from 2015 to 2016. She will host and executive produce the new reality show What Not To Design.

# Previous Participants



## CHAKA KHAN

Grammy Award Winning Artist

Yvette Marie Stevens (born March 23, 1953), better known by her stage name Chaka Khan, is an American singer. Her career has spanned more than five decades, beginning in the 1970s as the lead vocalist of the funk band Rufus. Known as the “Queen of Funk”, Khan was the first R&B artist to have a crossover hit featuring a rapper, with “I Feel for You” in 1984. Khan has won ten Grammy Awards and has sold an estimated 70 million records worldwide.

With Rufus, she achieved four gold singles, four gold albums, and two platinum albums. In the course of her solo career, Khan achieved three gold singles, three gold albums, and one platinum album with I Feel for You. She has collaborated with Ry Cooder, Robert Palmer, Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, Guru, Chicago, De La Soul, Mary J. Blige, among others. In December 2016, Billboard magazine ranked her as the 65th most successful dance artist of all time. She was ranked at No. 17 in VH1’s original list of the 100 Greatest Women of Rock & Roll. She has been nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame three times as a solo artist and four times as a member of Rufus featuring Chaka Khan; the first time in 2012 as a member of Rufus.



## BURT BACHARACH

American Composer

Burt Freeman Bacharach (born May 12, 1928) is an American composer, songwriter, record producer, and pianist who composed hundreds of pop songs from the late 1950s through the 1980s, many in collaboration with lyricist Hal David. A six-time Grammy Award winner and three-time Academy Award winner, Bacharach’s songs have been recorded by more than 1,000 different artists. As of 2014, he had written 73 US and 52 UK Top 40 hits. He is considered one of the most important composers of 20th-century popular music.

His music is characterized by unusual chord progressions, influenced by his background in jazz harmony, and uncommon selections of instruments for small orchestras. Most of Bacharach’s and David’s hits were written specifically for and performed by Dionne Warwick, but earlier associations (from 1957 to 1963) saw the composing duo work with Marty Robbins, Perry Como, Gene McDaniels, and Jerry Butler. Following the initial success of these collaborations, Bacharach went on to write hits for Gene Pitney, Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, Jackie DeShannon, Bobbie Gentry, Tom Jones, Herb Alpert, B. J. Thomas, the Carpenters, among numerous other artists. He arranged, conducted, and produced much of his recorded output.

Songs that he co-wrote which have topped the Billboard Hot 100 include “This Guy’s in Love with You” (1968), “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” (1969), “(They Long to Be) Close to You” (1970), “Arthur’s Theme (Best That You Can Do)” (1981), and “That’s What Friends Are For” (1986).

# Previous Participants



## RAY BISHOP

Former President, Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Ray Bishop is the former president of Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Goodwill Industries International Inc., often shortened in speech and writing to Goodwill (stylized as goodwill), is an American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides job training, employment placement services, and other community-based programs for people who have barriers to their employment. Goodwill Industries also

hires veterans and individuals who lack either education, job experience or face employment challenges. The nonprofit is funded by a network of 3,200+ retail thrift stores which operate as independent nonprofits as well.



## TRACEY EDMONDS

Television Mogul

Tracey Elaine Edmonds (née McQuarn; born February 18, 1967) is an American businesswoman, television producer and personality. She is the CEO of Edmonds Entertainment Group Inc and Alrightnow.com and is a former host of the television show Extra. She currently sits on the national board of directors for the Producers Guild of America.

Tracey Edmonds has created and produced projects for television, film, music, and digital media. In 2014, Edmonds joined Extra and left the company in 2017. While at Extra, she earned an Emmy Award for co-hosting alongside Mario Lopez and Charissa Thompson. Edmonds currently serves as CEO and President of Edmonds Entertainment. In 2013, Edmonds founded Alright TV, a family- and faith-oriented Web network. Edmonds executive produced Games People Play (BET), a drama about the NBA airing in 2019.

# Previous Participants



## CLYDE HIGGS

President and Chief Executive Officer  
(CEO) of Atlanta Beltline Inc.

Clyde Higgs currently serves as CEO & President of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. In this role he leads the executive team in providing oversight of the Economic Development, Design & Construction, Real Estate Development, Housing, Procurement, and Human Resources activities of ABI. He also lends his leadership to establishing and expanding strong working relationships with private and public partners across the region, state and nation. Clyde brings 20 years' experience in economic development, real estate, intellectual

property, technology, strategic planning, design, real estate development, grant and donor funding, and government relations, with a diversity of projects including those that specialize in urban innovation, science and technology.

Clyde joined ABI in 2015 from his position as Executive Vice President of Operations & Development for the North Carolina Research Campus, a multi-faceted initiative of Los Angeles real estate developer Castle & Cooke using the recruitment of science and technology companies as the platform to redevelop and reinvigorate Kannapolis, a former textile town near Charlotte, North Carolina. As a top executive at the Kannapolis Project, he helped steer the day-to-day operations of a multi-billion-dollar revitalization effort involving economic revitalization of the local economy. His work entailed ground and facility leasing over vast tracks of industrial lands and facilities; oversight of a complex multi-million annual operating budget; supervision of 60+ employees and consultants; and organizational direction of the capital improvements program.



## MARGUERITE CLINE

Former Mayor of Waleska & Cherokee  
County superintendent of schools

“First woman” or “first female” are often used when referring to Reinhardt’s 2014 Distinguished Alumna. First woman superintendent of the Cherokee County School District. First female mayor of Waleska, Ga. First female Cherokee Chamber of Commerce board chair. Being first hasn’t bothered Cline; instead, it has inspired and motivated her and many of those around her.

A postage-paid postcard changed Marguerite Thigpen Cline’s destiny. Her journey to Cherokee County began when a teacher asked her to pick up something on the floor. The text caught her eye: “If you want to know more about Reinhardt College, write your name and address here.” If a stamp was needed she wasn’t going to mail it, but it was postage paid, so she returned it.

Before long she was headed to Reinhardt, sight unseen, with a roommate selected by then-president Dr. J. Rowland Burgess. She also had a secretarial position on campus because she “had had two years of typing and one of shorthand. I had a hard time trying to remember shorthand but somehow managed,” she said. “The job paid for my room and board.”

Her parents didn’t expect her to stay, but stay she did. More than 60 years later, her impact can be seen across Waleska, Cherokee County and beyond.

# Previous Participants



**GENNADI NEDVIGIN**  
Artistic Director, Atlanta Ballet

In February 2016, Gennadi Nedvigin was named Atlanta Ballet's fourth artistic director in the Company's then 87-year history. Nedvigin, born in Rostov, Russia, began his training at age 5. At 10, he was accepted into the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. Upon graduating, he joined Moscow Renaissance Ballet, as a soloist, before he was invited to dance with Le Jeune Ballet de France in Paris. In 1997, while on tour in the U.S., San Francisco Ballet (SFB) Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson offered Nedvigin a soloist contract. After three years, he was promoted to principal dancer. While at SFB, Nedvigin won the International Competition's Erik Bruhn Prize (1999).

He has also received three Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (2001, 2010 and 2017). Along the way, Nedvigin was fortunate to work with many world-renowned choreographers. In addition to his dancing career, Nedvigin also taught master classes and staged ballets in the U.S. and abroad before becoming an artistic director. Recently, Nedvigin sat on juried panels at the World Ballet Competition in Orlando, the International Ballet Competition held in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Youth America Grand Prix. Under Nedvigin's guidance, Atlanta Ballet has established the Academy training program, which includes a top-tier performance ensemble, Atlanta Ballet 2, representing his commitment to training for the next generation of professional dancers.



**STRIVE MASIYIWA**  
Founder and Executive Chairman,  
Econet Global

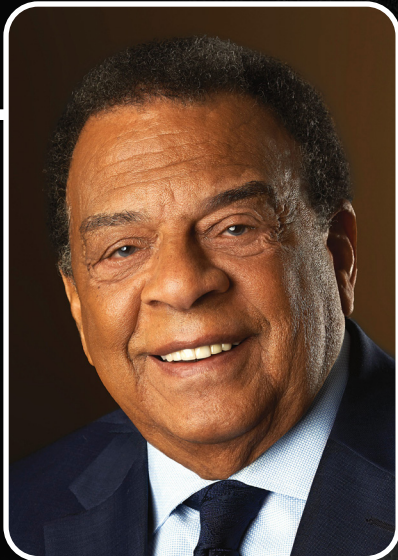
Strive Masiyiwa is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Econet, a pan-African technology company, and one of the pioneers of the mobile telecoms industry on the continent. Econet operates Africa's largest independent fibre broadband & cloud services business, the continent's largest network of carrier neutral hyper scale data centres located in key economic centres and a renewable energy business providing solar renewable energy to commercial and industrial enterprises. Econet operates the Sasai SuperApp (dubbed

Africa's WeChat) which integrates digital platforms and fintech services to consumers and businesses in Africa.

A Zimbabwean based in London, Masiyiwa serves on several international boards including Unilever Plc, Netflix, National Geographic Society, Asia Society, and the Global Advisory boards of Bank of America, the Council on Foreign Relations (in the US), Bloomberg New Economy Forum, the Prince of Wales Trust for Africa, and Stanford University. He also serves on the US Holocaust Museum Committee on Conscience, and the AU Reform Task Force. In May 2020 Masiyiwa was appointed to serve as an African Union Special Envoy to help coordinate Africa's private sector efforts to procure medical supplies and fight the spread of COVID-19. As Special Envoy he also heads up the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team. He led a similar private sector initiative to fight Ebola in West Africa in 2014-2015.

A board member of the Rockefeller Foundation for 15 years, Masiyiwa is Chairman Emeritus of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and co-founder of the Generation Africa GoGettaz Agripreneur Prize. In 2019 he was awarded the Norman Borlaug World Food Prize Medallion.

# Previous Participants



**ANDREW YOUNG**  
Former Ambassador to US

Andrew Jackson Young Jr. (born March 12, 1932) is an American politician, diplomat, and activist. Beginning his career as a pastor, Young was an early leader in the civil rights movement, serving as executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and a close confidant to Martin Luther King Jr.

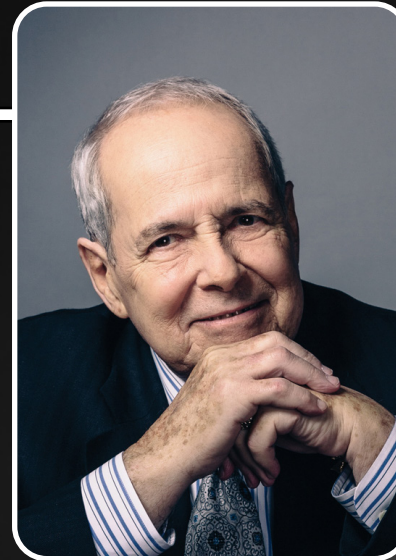
Young later became active in politics, serving as a U.S. Congressman from Georgia, United States Ambassador to the United Nations in the Carter Administration, and 55th Mayor of Atlanta. Since leaving office, Young has

founded or served in many organizations working on issues of public policy and political lobbying.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter appointed Young Ambassador to the U.N. His controversial statements made headlines almost from the start. His greatest contribution was helping end segregation in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. He also improved U.S. relations with Nigeria.

In 1981, Young was elected mayor of Atlanta, succeeding Maynard Jackson. He was re-elected in 1985. As mayor, Young brought the city to national prominence by encouraging international investment which, in turn, improved the Atlanta economy after it was hit hard by recession. He was instrumental in bringing the 1988 Democratic National Convention to Atlanta.

Young is the namesake of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. International Boulevard, near the Centennial Olympic Park, has been re-named Andrew Young International Boulevard, in honor of his efforts to secure the Olympic bid for Atlanta.



**SAM MASSELL**  
Former Mayor, Atlanta, Georgia

Sam Massell was born on August 26, 1927, in Atlanta. After completing local public schools, Mr. Massell attended the University of Georgia, Emory University, and Atlanta Law School.

He served twenty-two years in elected offices, including eight as President of Atlanta's Board of Alderman and four as the city's mayor from 1970 to 1974.

As mayor, Mr. Massell is credited with establishing MARTA and pioneering

minority opportunities in city government.

He subsequently ran a tourism business in Buckhead and in 1988 he became the founding President of the Buckhead Coalition, an organization he continues to helm. He currently serves on the Boards of both the Atlanta Historical Society and the Buckhead Heritage Society.

# Previous Participants



**Queen Latifah**  
Actress & Producer

Queen Latifah, byname of Dana Elaine Owens, (born March 18, 1970, Newark, New Jersey, U.S.), American musician and actress whose success in the late 1980s launched a wave of female rappers and helped redefine the traditionally male genre. She later became a notable actress.

Owens was given the nickname Latifah (Arabic for “delicate” or “sensitive”) as a child and later adopted the moniker Queen Latifah. In high school she was a member of the all-female rap group

Ladies Fresh, and, while studying communications at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, she recorded a demo tape that caught the attention of Tommy Boy Records, which signed the 18-year-old. In 1988 she released her first single, “Wrath of My Madness,” and the following year her debut album, All Hail the Queen, appeared. Propelled by diverse styles—including soul, reggae, and dance—and feminist themes, it earned positive reviews and attracted a wide audience. Soon after, Queen Latifah founded her own management company. Her second album, Nature of a Sista (1991), however, failed to match the sales of her previous effort, and Tommy Boy did not re-sign her. After signing with Motown Records, she released Black Reign in 1993.

The album was a critical and commercial success, and the single “U.N.I.T.Y.,” which decried sexism and violence against women, earned a Grammy Award.



**TY PENNINGTON**  
TV Host

Tygart Burton “Ty” Pennington (born Gary Tygart Burton) is an American television host, artist, carpenter, author, and former model and actor.

His rise to prominence began with his role as carpenter on the TLC home improvement reality show Trading Spaces (2000–2003), and continued when he hosted the ABC reality series Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (2003–2012), where he won two

Primetime Emmy Awards.

Following the show’s conclusion in 2012, Pennington has focused on numerous other projects, including host of ABC’s short lived talk show The Revolution in 2012, TNT’s On the Menu opposite Emeril Lagasse in 2014 and The Food Network’s American Diner Revival opposite Amanda Freitag from 2015 to 2016. On September 13, 2017, it was announced that Pennington was joining the revival of Trading Spaces, which began airing on April 7, 2018, on TLC.



# Previous Participants



**COY LASSITER**  
MD, Chief Medical Officer

Coy Lassiter, M.D., graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science in biology from the University of Georgia. He earned his medical degree from Mercer School of Medicine in Macon, Ga. He completed his residency in internal medicine, as well as his pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine.

He served as chief resident of internal medicine at Emory University Hospital from 2003 to 2004. Prior to joining Piedmont Physicians, Dr. Lassiter was in practice with Georgia Lung Associates and has been practicing medicine for 13 years. He holds board certifications in critical care medicine, pulmonary disease and internal medicine and has training in advanced bronchoscopy.

He prides himself on being a well-rounded physician and maintains special interests in interventional bronchoscopy, lung cancer and pulmonary thromboembolism. Dr. Lassiter is considered to be warm and friendly and his fellow physicians describe him as having a great vision and leadership for the practice of medicine. His patients consider him compassionate to their needs and devoted to excellence in medical practice.



**WENDY RACHEL ROBINSON**  
Actress

Wendy Raquel Robinson was born July 25, 1967, in Los Angeles, California. She is of African-American and Native American descent. Robinson is a cum laude graduate of Howard University of the School of Fine Arts and received her B.F.A. in drama. She's appeared in several plays, such as "The Vagina Monologues", "Black Woman's Blues", "Agnes of God", "A Midsummer's Night Dream", "The Colored Museum" and "Vanities"; all have done very well. In addition, she has

made guest appearances in several television series, including Martin (1992), The Sinbad Show (1993), Thea (1993), The Parkers (1999) and All of Us (2003). She is mostly known, though, for her role in the sitcom The Steve Harvey Show (1996), which she played Principal Regina "Piggy" Grier.

Wendy has also been in many films, including Two Can Play That Game (2001), Rebound (2005) and Something New (2006) with Sanaa Lathan. Wendy also appeared in The Game (2006) as "Tasha Mack" on the new network The CW. She also founded a theatre arts school in Los Angeles in 1995 for children called Amazing Grace Conservatory. She married Marco Perkins in 2003 and they live in Los Angeles. Wendy has received three NAACP Image Award nominations for Best Actress in a Comedy for her work on "The Steve Harvey Show".

# Previous Participants



**BILLY HAYES**  
CEO, Northside Hospital,  
Cherokee

In 1960 he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Young was jailed for his participation in civil rights demonstrations, both in Selma, Alabama, and in St. Augustine, Florida. Young played a key role in the events in Birmingham, Alabama, serving as a mediator between the white and black communities. In 1964 Young was named executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), becoming, in that capacity, one of Dr. King's principal lieutenants.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter appointed Young Ambassador to the U.N. His controversial statements made headlines almost from the start. His greatest contribution was helping end segregation in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. He also improved U.S. relations with Nigeria.

In 1981, Young was elected mayor of Atlanta, succeeding Maynard Jackson. He was re-elected in 1985. As mayor, Young brought the city to national prominence by encouraging international investment which, in turn, improved the Atlanta economy after it was hit hard by recession. He was instrumental in bringing the 1988 Democratic National Convention to Atlanta.

Young is the namesake of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. International Boulevard, near the Centennial Olympic Park, has been re-named Andrew Young International Boulevard, in honor of his efforts to secure the Olympic bid for Atlanta.



**DIONNE WARRICK**  
Grammy Award Winning Artist

Dionne Warwick was born in East Orange, New Jersey, on December 12, 1940. The oldest of three siblings, Warwick was raised in a deeply religious and musical family. Her father Mantrel, promoted gospel records while her mother, Lee, managed the Drinkard Singers, a gospel group comprised of Warwick's aunts and uncles.

At the age of fourteen, Warwick, along with her sister and cousin, formed The Gospelaires. The gospel trio sang in local churches, college campuses and African American theaters. They received widespread recognition by winning an amateur contest at the famed Apollo Theater. Over the next few years, The Gospelaires sang behind many of the most prominent artists of the time, including Dinah Washington, Chuck Jackson and Solomon Burke.

In 1959, Warwick received a music scholarship to the University of Hartford in Connecticut. During a session with The Drifters, music conductor and composer Burt Bacharach heard her unique voice. Warwick signed a recording contract in 1962 and her first single, "Don't Make Me Over," was a hit, attracting both R&B and pop audiences. From 1963 to 1966, Warwick achieved unprecedented success by becoming the first crossover artist to have a dozen consecutive Top 100 hits.

In 1968, Warwick became the first African American solo female artist to receive a Grammy for "Do You Know the Way to San Jose." By 1970, she had recorded thirty hit singles, close to twenty best-selling albums and received a second Grammy for the album I'll Never Fall In Love Again.

# Previous Participants



**SHERYL LEE RALPH**

Actress

Sheryl Lee Ralph is a multifaceted artist that sparkles in every facet of her artistic life. She most recently starred in the new CBS series FAM and has just launched a brand-new podcast, "Diva Defined," where she talks to other powerful women making moves in their various life and career paths. Sheryl and her guests are inspiring people each week with this incredible new project.

Ms. Ralph began her career on the silver screen in the film *A Piece of the Action* as Barbara Hanley with Sydney Poitier and Bill Cosby. She went on to star as Denzel Washington's wife in *The Mighty Quinn* filmed in Jamaica. She has also starred as Robert De Niro's mistress in *Mistress*. Sheryl Lee won the Independent Spirit Award for her role as Linda in *To Sleep With Anger* with Danny Glover. She and Whoopi Goldberg shared the screen with Lauryn Hill in *Sister Act 2* and with Morgan Freeman in *Just Getting Started*. On the Broadway stage, Miss Ralph was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actress in a ground-breaking musical *Dreamgirls* for her role as Deena Jones. In 2017 Sheryl made Theatre history becoming the very first African-American female to play the role of Madame Morrible in the Broadway musical, *Wicked*.

Sheryl's television credits are numerous. She is known for playing Ginger St. James on *It's a Living*, Etienne Toussaint-Bouvier on *Designing Women*, and beloved for her role as Dee Mitchell on *Moesha* (for which she was voted one of TV's Favorite Moms). She made TV history playing the first Black transsexual, Claire on the Showtime series, *Barbershop*. She can be seen now on Showtime's drama, *Ray Donovan*.



**BILLY HASTY, Esq.**

Hasty Pope LLP Attorney at Law

William G. "Billy" Hasty, a native of Canton, Georgia, has practiced law in Georgia since 1974. Specializing in civil litigation, Mr. Hasty has attained some of the highest jury verdicts in the United States in cases involving exposure to pesticides.

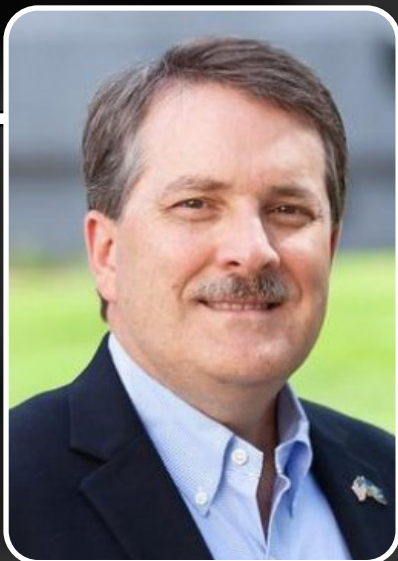
He successfully represented plaintiffs in the L-Tryptophan litigation suit, and has represented and litigated for municipal and county government entities his entire career.

He has served as Canton City Attorney and as attorney for the Cherokee County Development Authority for more than 20 years.

**HASTY | POPE | DAVIES**

TRIAL LAWYERS

KNOWLEDGE EXPERIENCE SUCCESS



**JERRY COOPER**  
City Manager | Canton, Georgia

A young man from Arkansas made his way to Georgia nearly 30 years ago to pursue a career in public administration. Little did he know he would lead one of Georgia's fastest growing counties as it transitioned from a bedroom community to a destination location, and went through a population boom and the Great Recession.

After serving in the U.S. Navy and graduating from the University of Arkansas, Cherokee County Manager Jerry Cooper began his work in public administration in Fayetteville, Arkansas,

in 1988, later relocating to Newnan, Georgia. Just a few years later, Cooper would take on a leadership position in Woodstock, before his final move to Cherokee County, where he has had a successful career as county manager.

When Cooper was selected to lead Cherokee County in 2001, he never imagined it would be the job from which he retired.

"Back then, I did not realize I would have the opportunity to serve as county manager for 20 years, especially considering the average tenure of a manager is seven to eight years," Cooper said. "I have had the fortune of serving the best commissioners and employees in the country — each of us working together with community leaders to make this county a great place to live and raise children, work and play."

Over the past 20 years, Cherokee County has evolved from a quiet suburban county to a destination for quality family living, corporate relocation and entertainment.



**HILL HARPER**  
Actor

Hill Harper is a humanitarian, an award-winning actor, best-selling author, entrepreneur, health and wellness ambassador/educator and philanthropist. Harper is perhaps most recognizable for his starring role in the CBS hit television drama CSI: NY where he played eccentric Dr. Sheldon Hawkes from 2004 to 2013 for which Harper won three NAACP Image Awards for Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series. Subsequently, Harper returned to CBS starring in Covert Affairs, the fast-paced drama Limitless, and Showtime's

award-winning drama Homeland. Harper will rejoin the cast of ABC's #1 television drama, The Good Doctor, for its 4th season, hosts How It Really Happened with Hill Harper on HLN and star in podcast Legal Wars. In theaters, Harper can be seen in Concussion, All Eyez on Me and Warner Bros. Pictures film A Sun Is Also A Star starring Yara Shahidi.

In addition to his performing career, Harper has authored four New York Times bestsellers: Letters to a Young Brother, Letters to a Young Sister, The Conversation, and The Wealth Cure which chronicled his diagnosis with thyroid cancer and his journey to health. Letters to a Young Brother won several awards and was named "Best Book for Young Adults" by the American Library Association in 2007. Harper has been recognized with seven NAACP Image Awards, four of them for his writing. His latest book, Letters to an Incarcerated Brother, which speaks to the current mass incarceration crisis, was released to critical acclaim and was nominated for several awards.

# Previous Participants



**LISA RAYE**

Actress

LisaRaye McCoy is an American actress, model, fashion designer, and businesswoman. She is best known for her role as Diane Armstrong in the comedy film 'The Players Club'.

She also played a main role in the popular comedy series 'Single Ladies'. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, she studied at Eastern Illinois University, where she began pursuing her acting career. She made her film debut playing

the lead role in the independent film 'Reasons'. In the ensuing years, she played guest roles in shows, such as 'Moesha' and 'In the House'.

She came to popularity with her role in the comedy film 'The Players Club'. The film did quite well financially. Later, she played the role of Neesee James, in the comedy series 'All of Us'. She was nominated for the NAACP Image Award for her role in the show. She was once married to Michael Misick, the former chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



**CURLEY M. DOSSMAN, JR.**

President, Georgia-Pacific Foundation  
Vice President, Community Affairs

As president of the Georgia-Pacific Foundation since 1994, Curley leads the Foundation's charitable giving program which focuses on four areas: education; environment, enrichment and entrepreneurship.

He also oversees GP's community affairs efforts including headquarters local government affairs and national disaster relief efforts. Prior to taking on this position, Curley spent a decade as the state vice president of government affairs for AT&T. A Louisiana native, he also held a number of positions there before relocating to Georgia, including legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Russell B. Long and assistant director of the Louisiana State Planning Office.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College, then his law degree from Washington University School of Law (St. Louis, Mo.) In addition to his work with GP, he is involved with many non-profit organizations, including the Atlanta Committee for Progress, Community and Government Affairs Advisory Council, Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Atlanta Rotary Club, Savannah State University Board of Governors, Metro Atlanta YMCA, High Museum of Art and Atlanta Beltline Partnership Development Committee. He serves on the board of directors for 100 Black Men of America and is the immediate past chairman.

# Previous Participants



**ROCKMOND DUNBAR**

Actor

Rockmond Dunbar was born on January 11, 1973 in Berkeley, California, USA.

He is an actor and producer, known for Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (2005), Sons of Anarchy (2008) and The Family That Preys (2008).

He has been married to Maya Dunbar since June 8, 2013. They have two children. He was previously married to Ivy Holmes.



**LEAH WARD SEARS**

Former Georgia  
Supreme Court Member

Leah Ward Sears is the former Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. She served on the court from 1992 until June 2009. Sears became the court's chief justice in June 2005. After Sears' final day on the court, Carol Hunstein was elevated to serve as chief justice.[1]

In August of 2009, Sears will begin a one-year fellowship with the William Thomas Sears Distinguished Fellow in Family Law for the Institute for American Values. The fellowship is named for her brother who died in 2007 after returning from service in the Middle East. Sears will teach a seminar, "Contemporary Issues in Family Law," at the University of Georgia Law School while on her fellowship. In October of 2009, Sears will begin working in the Atlanta offices of legal firm Schiff Hardin.[2]

Justice Sears has a distinguished position in Georgia's history. She was the first African-American woman to serve as Superior Court Judge in Georgia. When appointed by the Governor of Georgia in February, she became the first woman and the youngest person ever to serve on Georgia's Supreme Court. Also, in retaining her appointed position as a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Sears became the first woman to win a contested state-wide election in Georgia.

# Previous Participants



**KASIM REED**

Former Mayor, Atlanta, Georgia

Kasim Reed was the Mayor of Atlanta in Georgia. Reed assumed office in 2010. Reed left office in 2018.

Reed ran for election for Mayor of Atlanta in Georgia. Reed lost in the general election on November 2, 2021.

Before becoming mayor, Reed served in the Georgia State Senate, representing District 35 from 2002 to 2010, and in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1998 to 2002.



**LYN WHITFIELD**

Actress

Lynn Whitfield is an American actress and producer. Whitfield is best known for her performance as Josephine Baker in the HBO biographical drama film, *The Josephine Baker Story* (1991), where she won a Primetime Emmy Award for outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries and a movie along with a Golden Globe nomination. Whitfield had several other starring roles in films, which include *A Thin Line between Love and Hate* (1996), *Gone Fishin'* (1997), *Eve's Bayou* (1997), *Stepmom* (1998), *Head of State* (2003), *Madea's Family Reunion* (2006),

and *The Woman* (2008).

Whitfield was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May 6, 1953, to Jean Butler, a finance agency executive, and Valerian Smith, a dentist. She is the eldest of four children and graduated from Howard University in 1975. Her father was instrumental in developing Lynn's initial interest in acting as he was a prime figure in forming a community theater in her native Baton Rouge. She first garnered attention on the stage by studying and performing with the Black Repertory Company in Washington D.C.

In 1981 Whitfield made her professional screen debut in the NBC critically acclaimed serial drama, *Hill Street Blues* as Jill Thomas. In 1983 she appeared in the comedy film, *Doctor Detroit*. Other films in the 1980s included *The Slugger's Wife* (1985), *Silverado* (1985), and *Jaws: The Revenge* (1987). She also starred in television films, *The George McKenna Story* (1986) alongside Denzel Washington and *The Women of Brewster Place* (1989) alongside Oprah Winfrey and Cicely Tyson.

# Previous Participants



**KEISHA KNIGHT PULLIAM**

Actress

Keisha became the youngest actress ever to be nominated for an Emmy Award at age six for best supporting actress. Even before that – at age three – she played “Keshia” on Sesame Street. She also played in the movie Pollyanna with Phylicia Rashād. Her character on The Cosby Show, “Rudy”, was known for being the “baby” of the family. She is ranked at 19 in VH1’s list of the “100 Greatest Kid Stars”.

In a 2008 interview, she revealed that when she read for the role of Rudy, when she was only five, she kept looking away from the director (Jay Sandrich), who finally asked her what she was looking at. She said when pointing to a monitor, “How can you make me on the TV?” Throughout the show’s eight seasons, Pulliam had an on-and-off-screen chemistry with Bill Cosby, as the two shared their own friendship when not filming. For example, she related how “Mr. Cosby and I, we had a competition going on to see who would do a better job at lip-syncing. That was our little inside thing. I think I did a better job.” She also appeared on a 1997 episode of Bill Cosby’s follow-up sitcom CBS-TV’s Cosby, playing a guitar-player. She has remained friendly with Cosby.

Pulliam won a celebrity version of NBC-TV’s Fear Factor in September 2002. She also won a celebrity version of The Weakest Link, and participated in Celebrity Mole 2: Yucatan. In 2004, she performed in Chingy’s music video for “One Call Away”. In 2005, she played Darnelle in Beauty Shop with Queen Latifah



**ROBERT ANTHONY JACKSON**

Management, The AT&T Corporation  
President & Board of Trustees, The Not  
Alone Foundation, Inc.

Professional Leadership Objective is to provide at the executive manager level, professional services that aligns with the mission, values, and expectations of the company. A unique combination of Business Strategy Science, behavioral science, business management experience, education in the concentrations of marketing strategy development, E-marketing ,commerce, analysis, and brand management.

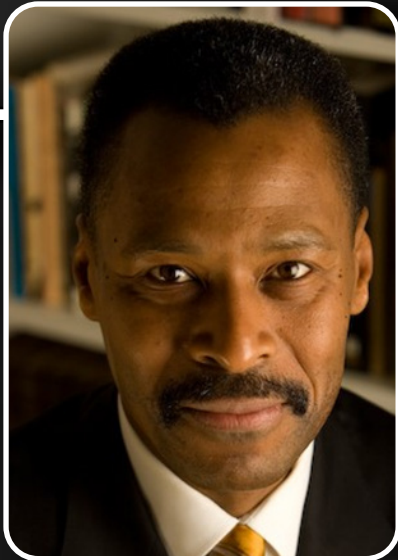
High Level Manager Executive managing a team of Fiber Executives that are verifying AT&T’s Nationally based technical architecture understanding of a property or locations, and will be responsible for updating internal fiber assets databases with accurate information. Owning the relationship with customers, property managers, IT Director / Manager and secure the ability of AT&T to secure advanced network assets.



**AT&T**



# Previous Participants



**DR. JOHN S. WILSON**  
Former President  
Morehouse College

Johns Silvanus Wilson Jr. was appointed executive director of the Millennium Leadership Initiative at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The initiative is a leadership development program that provides individuals traditionally underrepresented in the highest ranks of higher education the opportunity to develop skills, gain a philosophical overview, and build the network needed to advance to top-level executive positions in higher education.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Wilson has joined AASCU,” said AASCU president Mildred García. “His broad experience in higher education administration, as well as his expertise advocating on behalf of historically Black colleges and universities, makes him an excellent fit for this role.”

Dr. Wilson brings 35 years of experience in higher education to the position – most recently as visiting scholar at Harvard Business School. He also served as senior advisor and strategist to the president of Harvard University and was president-in-residence for Harvard’s School of Education. He has held administrative roles at George Washington University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 2009 to 2013, Dr. Wilson was executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Morehouse College. He holds a master’s degree in theology from Harvard Divinity School and a master’s degree and s doctorate in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University.



**JACKEE’ HARRY**  
Actress

Actress Jackée Harry was born Jacqueline Yvonne Harry on August 14, 1956 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but was raised in Harlem, New York, by her mother Flossie Harry. At the age of fourteen, Harry landed the lead role of the “King” in her school’s production of The King and I. After graduating from New York City’s High School of Music and Art, Harry attended the University of Long Island in Brooklyn, New York, where she earned her B.A. degree in education.

Harry began her career as a history teacher at Brooklyn Technical High School. After two years of teaching, she departed from her profession and pursued a career in acting. She then starred in A Broadway Musical as a chorus girl. In 1983, Harry made her television debut by acting opposite the then-unknown Morgan Freeman in the daytime soap opera, Another World.

In 1985, Harry found her signature role, starring as “Sandra Clark” on the NBC sitcom 227. As the breakout star of the show, she became the first African American to win an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. Her performance on 227 inspired NBC producers to create at television pilot for her entitled Jackée. After leaving the cast of 227 in 1989, Harry starred opposite Oprah Winfrey in the adaptation of Gloria Naylor’s novel, The Women of Brewster Place. In 1991, Harry was a part of an all-star cast that included Redd Foxx and Della Reese when she played the role of “Ruth ‘CoCo’ Royal” in The Royal Family. Harry starred as the adoptive mother of Tia & Tamera Mowry’s characters in the ABC sitcom, Sister, Sister and won NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series.

# Previous Participants



**CAROLYN JACKSON**  
Former Chief of Human Resources,  
The Coca-Cola Company

Ms. Carolyn Jackson is Senior Vice President, Human Resources - Coca-Cola North America Group, where she leads the development and implementation of the people plan and strategy to drive organizational and individual performance to meet business needs and requirements.

She is responsible for 60,000 + people in Coca-Cola North America and Coca-Cola Refreshments.

Carolyn was appointed to her current role in 2012. Her previous roles at Coca-Cola included: Chief Human Resources Officer Coca-Cola North America; Vice President and Director Organization Planning and People Development for The McDonald's Group; Vice President Human Resources for Schweppes Beverages in London England; Director Human Resources Corporate Functions; Director of Human Resources for the Global Marketing Division; Director of Human Resources for Finance, Information Systems, Human Resources, Technical & Manufacturing, and Assistant Manager Industrial Relations for The Company-owned Bottling Operations.

Before joining TCCC in 1985 "CJ" was employed by Armco, Inc. and the National Supply Company in Cincinnati, Ohio and Houston, Texas respectively. Carolyn is a graduate of Michigan State University, with an M.A. in Labor and Industrial Relations and a B.A. in Social Sciences.



**CARLTON BROWN**  
Former President, Clark  
Atlanta-University

Carlton Brown Ed.D. joined AGB Search in 2017. Dr. Brown is also a Senior Fellow for AGB Consulting focusing on Business Strategy. He stepped down from the presidency of Clark Atlanta University (GA) in June 2015 after seven years of service preceded by one year as executive vice president and provost. He previously served as special assistant to the chancellor of the University System of Georgia for the implementation of system-wide change initiatives.

Dr. Brown has recently completed searches for:

Bethune-Cookman University (FL) – President  
Claflin University (SC) – President  
Texas Christian University - Inaugural General Counsel

Dr. Brown's first presidency was at Savannah State University, from 1997 to 2006. Previously, he spent 10 years in the administration of Hampton University as a dean of education, dean of liberal arts and education, and then dean of the graduate college and vice president for planning.

He has served on the boards of NAFEO, UNCF, the Holmes Group, and AACTE. He currently serves on the advisory board of the Epicenter at Stanford University and Momentus: a Sustainability Collaborative. In civic and professional service, Dr. Brown has served as the chair of the AACTE National Commission on Multicultural Education and the boards of the Youth Futures Authority in Savannah, the Savannah Economic Development Authority and vice chair of the Hampton Virginia School Board.

# Previous Participants



## LEE RHYANT

Former Senior Executive Vice-President & GM, Lockheed Martin

LEE E. RHYANT is the president and CEO of LEE Solutions, LLC, and a former executive at Lockheed Martin Marietta, Rolls Royce Aerospace, and Detroit Diesel Allison, a subsidiary of General Motors.

He is also a business and leadership consultant and lives in Woodstock, Georgia.

**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



## KARLIE REDD

American Television Personality, Rapper, Model and Actress

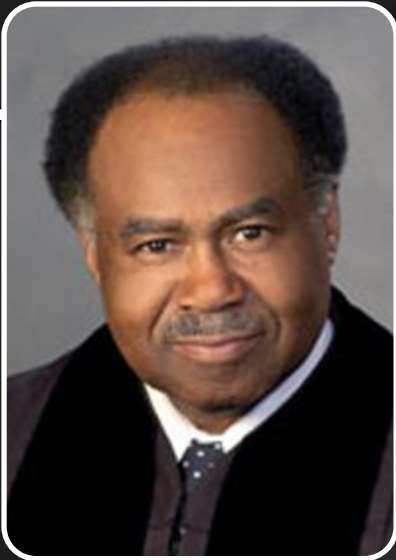
Karlie Redd is a popular American TV personality, actress, recording artist, and hip-hop artist.

Her most popular and notable work is the VH1 hit reality show 'Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta'. She is also a budding author who has achieved a lot in various fields in show biz. Karlie Redd is known for being a famous model and dancer as well.

This multi-talented personality has an enormous fan following on Instagram and Twitter. As of April 2017, her Instagram account 'iamkarlieredd' had over 1 million followers. Her rise to the top has been gradual and steady. Her skills, beauty, and hard work have made her one of the most popular television personalities in America today.

**LOVE &  
HIPHOP**

# Previous Participants



**ROBERT BENHAM**  
Former Chief Justice,  
The Georgia Supreme Court

Robert Benham graduated Summer Hill High School, Cartersville, Georgia in 1963 and Tuskegee University in 1967 with a B.S. in Political Science. After attending Harvard University, Benham graduated the Lumpkin School of Law at the University of Georgia in 1970 with a J.D. degree, and the University of Virginia in 1989 with an LL.M degree. After entering the bar in 1970, Benham served in the U.S. Army Reserve, attaining the rank of Captain, and following his brief service as a trial lawyer for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society,

became the first African American to establish a law practice in Cartersville and Bartow County. Concurrent with his private practice, Benham served as Special Assistant Attorney General for the state of Georgia, and served two terms as President of the Bartow County Bar Association.

On April 3, 1984 Benham was appointed by Governor Joe Frank Harris to the Georgia Court of Appeals, where he served for five years following his subsequent statewide election to the court, distinguishing himself as the first African American to win statewide election in Georgia since reconstruction. In 1989, Benham was further distinguished as the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia. Following his appointment by Governor Harris, Benham won election to the Court in 1990, where he continued in his capacity as Chief Justice until the expiration of his term in December 2002. He was since re-elected and continues to serve as Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.



**JOHNNIE BOOKER**  
Retired Director Supplier Diversity  
The Coca-Cola Company

Ms. Johnnie B. Booker is a member of the DREF Resource Development Committee. She retired from The Coca-Cola Company in 2012 as Global Director of Supplier Diversity. In this capacity, Ms. Booker was responsible for developing and implementing the Company's supplier diversity program and initiatives to assure equal contracting opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses.

Before joining The Coca-Cola Company in April 2001, Ms. Booker was a consultant to a number of national agencies and corporations developing supplier and workforce diversity initiatives and programs. She also served in the federal government at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Vice President of the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), and as a member of the RTC Executive Committee. Prior to her tenure at the RTC, Ms. Booker served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

She also served in executive capacities with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the National Urban League. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Hampton University and a Master's of Social Work Degree from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. Ms. Booker currently is a member of the Fort Valley State University Foundation Board of Directors and the Supplier Diversity Council for Delta Airlines. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Utopian Literary Club and the Circle-Let's.

# Previous Participants



**OVIE MUGHELLI**  
Atlanta Falcon Running Back

After four successful years with Baltimore, Ovie Mughelli signed with the Atlanta Falcons. He is currently regarded as one of the premier fullbacks in the NFL.



**BRAD JAMES**  
Actor

In the span of just a few short years, Brad James has gone from US Marine to one of the most exciting faces in television and film today. Although widely praised for his comedic role as 'Todd' on the hit series "Tyler Perry's For Better Or Worse," Brad has shown himself to be much more than just a comedic actor. Through dozens of television and film appearances he has showcased a vast range of characters from action hero, to misunderstood boy-toy, to the diabolical villain.

Brad appeared in the Nicholas Sparks adaptation of his popular novel "The Choice," with Teresa Palmer, Alexandra Daddario and Benjamin Walker. His other feature film credits include appearing alongside Billy Crystal and Bette Midler in the family comedy "Parental Guidance," appearing with Jake Gyllenhaal and Hugh Jackman in Denis Villeneuve's "Prisoners," and starring as 'Spence' in the feature film "Comeback Dad."

2016 witnessed Brad appearing on "NCIS: New Orleans," adding to his long list of television credits that also include ABC's "Devious Maids," The CW's "Hart of Dixie" and recurring on WGN's critically acclaimed series "Underground."

In addition to his acting, Brad has also begun to write, produce and direct projects that he feels have stories that will entertain and enlighten. He has spoken at several drama academies, schools, panels, camps and more; constantly promoting belief in one's self to accomplish anything that you put your mind and heart to do.

# Previous Participants

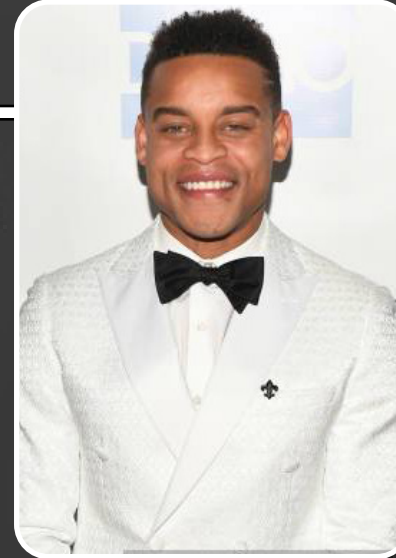


**WILL PACKER**  
Producer & Filmmaker

Founder and CEO Will Packer, one of Hollywood's record-breaking filmmakers, has produced or executive produced a wide range of movies that have grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide at the box office, including 10 films that have opened at number one. Mr. Packer's most recent film, "The Photograph," debuted in February 2020. His films "Girls Trip" and "Night School" were the highest grossing comedies for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Among the other films Mr. Packer has produced include "Little," "What Men Want,"

"Ride Along 2," "No Good Deed," "Think Like a Man Too," "Ride Along," "Think Like a Man," "Takers," "Obsessed," "Breaking In," "Stomp the Yard" and "Straight Outta Compton."

Mr. Packer's television, digital and branded content company, Will Packer Media, recently produced the docuseries "Blackballed" for Quibi and "The Atlanta Child Murders" for Investigation Discovery, as well as "The Disappearance of the Millbrook Twins" on Oxygen and "Shark Trip: Eat. Prey. Chum" on Discovery. Mr. Packer also served as the executive producer of the remake of "Roots," for which he received an Emmy Award nomination, and has executive produced such primetime programming as "Ready to Love" (OWN), "Ambitions" (OWN), "Truth be Told" (NBC), "Uncle Buck" (ABC) and "Being Mary Jane" (BET).



**ROBERT RICHARD**  
Actor

Robert Richard was born on January 7, 1983 in Los Angeles, California, USA.

He is an actor and producer, known for Coach Carter (2005), House of Wax (2005) and One on One (2001).

# Previous Participants



**PATRICK L. LABAT**  
Fulton County Sheriff in Georgia

Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat is serving as the 28th Sheriff of Fulton County, Georgia. With 30 years of success in the public safety sector and a decade as Chief of the City of Atlanta Department of Corrections, Sheriff Labat has a proven track record as a decisive leader and change agent. He has reputation for motivating his workforce through active and engaged, hands-on leadership.

As Chief of the City of Atlanta Department of Corrections, he served on the Mayor's executive team as well as other executive policy-making bodies. He was responsible for providing the visionary leadership for a \$30+ million budget while achieving high levels of success and promoting effectiveness and efficiency across all departments within the City of Atlanta.

Labat maintained a nationally accredited detention facility, pioneered youth diversion programs, senior citizen meal service programs and the nationally acclaimed PAT3 reentry program. He was named Jail Administrator of the Year by the Georgia Jail Association in 2015 and 2019.

The main pillars of his vision for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office revolve around crime reduction & public safety, improved jail conditions (which will result in better, more efficient use of tax dollars), repeat offenders and reentry as well as Use-of-force Police Review & Accountability.



**DR. BRIAN L. DAVIS**  
President and Chief Executive Officer, The Georgia Aquarium

Dr. Brian Davis is Georgia Aquarium's President and Chief Executive Officer. Davis brings with him more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership roles within zoological and educational institutions, having previously held positions at Georgia Aquarium on two separate occasions.

Dr. Davis first joined the Georgia Aquarium team prior to its founding in 2003, as the Director of Education, later served as the Aquarium's Vice President of Education and then most recently as Executive Vice President of Operations.

Dr. Davis is the current Chair for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He has also recently been appointed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to the Georgia Tourism Foundation Board of Directors.

# Previous Participants



**WILLIAM CLEVELAND**  
Nephrology Specialist,  
Emory University Hospital

William H. Cleveland is a physician specializing in nephrology. He currently serves as a Clinical Nephrologist on the medical staff of seven Atlanta hospitals and Medical Director for two Atlanta-area dialysis centers. Dr. Cleveland is President of Southwest Atlanta Nephrology, PC and Nephronet, LLC and is a past president of the Crawford Long Hospital Medical Staff.

Previously, Dr. Cleveland served on the Georgia Health Sciences University Board as well as on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. In 1999, he was honored by the International Olympic Commission with a Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Cleveland earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Morehouse College and doctor of medicine degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He enjoys music, reading, and experimenting with new techno gadgets. He resides in Atlanta with his family.



**DANTAYA WILLIAMS**

Executive VP & Chief Human Resources  
Officer at Raytheon Technologies

Dantaya Williams is the chief human resources officer at Raytheon Technologies.

She is responsible for the company's Global Human Resources function, which is focused on talent management, workforce diversity, employee relations, total rewards and employee experience.



# Previous Participants



## SHANN MACK

CEO & Founder  
Alliance Medical Transportation

Shann Mack is Founder and CEO, Alliance Medical Transportation. Alliance Medical Transportation provides patient care and Basic Life Support (BLS) as the fundamental foundation of our medical transportation service. Alliance Medical Transportation is a minority owned and professionally driven in providing transportation to and from pre-scheduled primary appointments to dialysis centers, hospitals, nursing homes

and approved doctor's appointments. Additionally, Shan Mack experiences are parallel in digital internet technology and graphic design as a veteran consult and professional with over 20 years of experience in the marketplace. Shann Mack is a graduate of Savannah College of Art & Design, also known as SCAD. Shann Mack is an avid volunteer, and a member of various civic and community organizations.



## KEITH PARKER

President & CEO of  
Goodwill of North Georgia

Keith Parker is the current President and CEO of Goodwill of North Georgia. He is also known to many in Atlanta as the former CEO of MARTA, who for five years oversaw one of the greatest turnarounds in the organization's history.

Parker is a long-time industry veteran who has worked in transit agencies in San Antonio and Charlotte before taking over MARTA in 2012. In 2017, Parker stepped down as the CEO of MARTA and transit altogether to become the CEO of Goodwill of North Georgia in October of 2017.

**Goodwill**  
of North Georgia



# Previous Participants



**DONALD W. COMER**

Vice President Decision Science & Analysis FedEx

Seasoned Fortune 50 Senior Executive known for an ability to drive innovation. Expertise in decision science and analytics, operations, product development and technology advancement, strategy, and finance.

Thirty plus year FedEx career marked by progressive levels of responsibility and leadership in wide-ranging business disciplines including data analytics, marketing, finance, strategic planning, software design/delivery, and project management.

Currently serve as Vice President, Decision Science & Analytics leveraging data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning techniques to solve complex business problems, exploit credible options for innovation, drive operational change, and create incremental business value. This role significantly influences FedEx's Strategic Management Committee's annual strategic outlook and FedEx's Board of Director's approval of major enterprise initiatives.

Previously led product development and program management of a portfolio of technology solutions designed to provide global customer access to FedEx transportation services impacting nearly \$29B in revenue. Two-time recipient of the FedEx Five Star, awarded to the top 2% of employees annually.



**JWYANZA WATT**

Assistant Vice President of Billing Operations

Assistant Vice President of Billing Operations for AT&T. As an Operations Leader, my adaptability in ever-changing environments and innate relationship building across all levels positively impact productivity, integration, process improvement, and organizational effectiveness.



**AT&T**

# Previous Participants



**JAMES EDGAR COLE**  
Oncology Sales Executive  
Eli Lilly & Company

*Lilly*



**JESSE WALTON JR.**  
Senior Vice President & Financial Advisor  
The Walton Group at Morgan Stanley

Jesse Walton, Jr. is a Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, Portfolio Manager and Founder of the Melior Group at Morgan Stanley. He is also a founding member of The Access One Alliance at Morgan Stanley, ten of Morgan Stanley's most experienced, senior African-American Financial Advisors, who provide the full depth and breadth of Morgan Stanley's platform to corporations, non-profit organizations, endowments and family office clients.

Jesse was named to Forbes' ranking of the Best-in-State Wealth Advisors for 2022 and 2023, and Forbes' Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams for 2023. He was also named to Morgan Stanley's prestigious Master's Club in 2021, 2022 and 2023, a group of the Firm's most successful Financial Advisors.

Jesse is dedicated to promoting diverse work environments and to mentoring financial advisors and all young professionals. He is a member of the Morgan Stanley National Diversity and Inclusion Alumni Council. He is also involved in his local Atlanta community where he is a member of The 100 Black Men of Atlanta – Atlanta Chapter.

An alumnus of Howard University, Jesse received his B.BA in International Business and his M.S.E degree from Georgia State University. He and his wife, Angela, reside in Marietta, GA, along with their sons, Bryce and Duke. Both Jesse and Angela are active members of St. James United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, GA where they have served as leaders of the Marriage Ministry. Jesse also served as the St. James UMC Finance Chairperson from 2008-2011.

# Previous Participants



**ANDRE L. CHUCHWELL, MD**

Vice Chancellor of Outreach,  
Inclusion & Belonging &  
Chief Diversity officer | Vanderbilt University

In May 2020, Dr. André L. Churchwell was named Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer for Vanderbilt University after having held the offices in an interim capacity since June 2019. Dr. Churchwell is also Chief Diversity Officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, a Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), a Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, and a Professor of

Biomedical Engineering. He serves on many medical school committees including the Admission and Promotion Committees. In 2005, he was named the Walter R. Murray Jr. Distinguished Alumnus by the Association of Vanderbilt Black Alumni for lifetime achievements in personal, professional and community arenas. And in 2015, Vanderbilt University endowed him with the Levi Watkins, Jr., M.D. Chair for achievements in the area of diversity and inclusion.

Churchwell graduated from the Vanderbilt School of Engineering magna cum laude in 1975. He won the Biomedical Engineering Student Program Award that same year. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1979 and later completed his internship, residency and cardiology fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine and affiliated hospitals in Atlanta. In addition, he was the first African American chief medical resident at Grady Memorial Hospital (1984–1985).



**DR. CYNTHIA TURNER**

Assistant Dean & Chief Diversity Officer  
The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business

Cynthia W. Turner serves on the leadership team at Fisher as the assistant dean and chief diversity officer and has become a widely sought-after facilitator and guest speaker on the topics of diversity, equity and inclusion.

After joining Fisher in 2013 as a senior lecturer of accounting, she developed the award-winning Project THRIVE program, a diversity initiative designed to increase representation within the undergraduate accounting and management information systems department. In 2018, she was honored with Ohio State's Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award for her success in doubling the diversity within the

undergraduate program in two short years.

Since taking on the position as assistant dean and chief diversity officer at Fisher in 2019, Cynthia's strategic efforts have helped double external funding for scholarships and DEI initiatives; facilitated the development of a formal partnership with the city of Columbus to support pre-collegiate programming for its underrepresented and first-generation high school students; developed programming to engage Fisher's diverse alumni, including the Alumni of Color Network Weekend and the Women's Leadership Symposium; and created a new DEI course offering at Fisher.

Cynthia has an MA and PhD in accounting from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business and a BS in accounting from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. She was the first African American woman to earn a PhD in accounting at Ohio State and the first African American woman to be appointed to serve on the leadership team at Fisher in 2019. In 2023, she was nationally recognized with a lifetime achievement award for advancing diversity throughout her career.

Cynthia spent 17 years on the faculty of the Department of Accountancy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she began as an assistant professor and was the associate director of the department's undergraduate program.

# Previous Participants



**DR. KARRIE G. DIXON**  
Chancellor  
Elizabeth City State University

Dr. Karrie G. Dixon was named 12th Chief Executive Officer and 7th Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University on December 14, 2018. Prior to her appointment as interim chancellor on April 9, 2018, Dr. Dixon served as co-lead on the ECSU New Directions Phase 2 Operational Team since early 2017.

Dr. Dixon has served as a senior administrator at the University of North Carolina System since 2008. In 2014, she was promoted to Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Dixon was responsible for overseeing the Division of Academic and Student Affairs for the System's 17 institutions. During her tenure, she was responsible for providing University-wide guidance for policy that shapes the work and practice within academic and student affairs divisions. For nearly 10 years, she has provided the UNC System office with her expertise in academic policy, while leading various student success initiatives and managing processes to increase student access, enrollment, retention and graduation rates. She has fostered innovative collaborations among the UNC System, the NC Community College System, the state's independent colleges and universities, and the NC Department of Public Instruction and has been instrumental in leading multiple projects and policy changes that have greatly impacted students in the University of North Carolina System and statewide.



**MARCO BARKER**  
Vice Chancellor  
for diversity & inclusion

Marco Barker has served as the inaugural vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion since April 1, 2019, and holds an appointment as associate professor of practice in education administration.

Barker previously served in diversity leadership roles at Westminster College, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Louisiana State University. In his most recent position at Westminster College, Barker was the inaugural associate vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion and the college's chief diversity officer. During his time at the Utah college, he created an infrastructure for one of the state's most diverse institutions of higher education.

Barker leads the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which shapes the policies, protocols and practices needed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion across the university. He works toward fostering an inclusive, equitable and welcoming campus by collaborating with campus partners, allies and the local community.

Barker's research and publications on higher education address doctoral and graduate education, cross-race mentoring and advising relationships, diversity, and leadership in higher education and often utilizes critical race theory and double consciousness as frameworks.

Barker is a certified qualified administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory. He earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Arkansas, Master of Business Administration from Webster University and doctoral degree in educational leadership and research from Louisiana State University.

# Previous Participants



**LINNIE MARIA GOLIGHTLY, MD**  
Associate Dean of Diversity  
Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Golightly received her BA degree in Biology from Wayne State University and her MD degree from Cornell University Medical College. She subsequently trained in Internal Medicine at Harlem Hospital where she also served as Chief Resident. She obtained her Infectious Disease training at the Harvard Combined Infectious Disease Training Program (Beth Israel Hospital, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute) and post-doctoral research training in molecular parasitology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Golightly served as a medical attending and infectious disease specialist at the Beth Israel Hospital while on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. She subsequently returned to New York and established a research laboratory at the Weill Medical College. Dr. Golightly is active in training the next generation of physician-scientists. She has served as program director for the Infectious Disease Fellowship Training Program, Director of the second year medical student Basis of Disease (BOD) course in Infectious Diseases and the Ben Kean Course in Tropical Medicine. She is an active teacher in Global Health at the Ithaca Campus and is a member of the International Committee, which provides oversight for WCMC international electives. She attends on the infectious disease consult service as well as in the WCMC Travel Clinic.



**MARLINA DUNCAN, EDD**  
Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Inclusion Vice Chancellor  
for Diversity & Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer  
UMass Chan Medical School

Marlina Duncan, EdD, (she/her/hers) is vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion. She is a higher education administrator and scholar, with extensive experience working on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Duncan provides strategic direction for a wide range of programs and initiatives to build and sustain a diverse and inclusive environment at UMass Chan Medical School. She coordinates educational and enrichment efforts and measures and reports DEI progress to ensure institutional accountability. She is a thought leader and a trusted advisor to the administration, faculty and students. Through her work as a DEI administrator, she has gained an understanding of and experience with effective evaluation and assessment practices with a focus on learning and the ability to guide data informed efforts. Some of these efforts include assistance with underrepresented-in-medicine faculty hires, historically underrepresented graduate student recruitment and retention practices, and training to improve department climate.

Prior to arriving at UMass Chan in December 2020, she served as the assistant vice president of academic diversity and associate dean of diversity initiatives in the Graduate School at Brown University. At Brown, she led initiatives to increase participation of underrepresented populations by emphasizing the importance of recruitment, retention, program climate and culture, and co-curricular programming. She was able to lay the foundation for institutionalizing diversity and inclusion best practices at the university. During her tenure at Brown University, the graduate school received more applications from historically underrepresented groups than at any other time in its history. Also, during this time, Brown admitted more underrepresented students to graduate studies and hired more faculty from underrepresented backgrounds than at any other time in the history of the institution.

Duncan has an undergraduate degree in biology from Westfield State University and a doctorate in science education from UMass Amherst.

# Previous Participants



**DR. WILLIE L. TODD, JR.**  
President  
Denmark Technical College

Dr. Willie L. Todd, Jr. serves as Denmark Technical College's 9th president. Dr. Todd assumed the helm of the institution on January 13, 2020.

Dr. Todd stated, "Denmark Technical College has a commitment to an 'enduring spirit' that promotes the fostering of an innovative learning-arena for all and the creation of a stronger co-curricular experience for students and staff. We continue to possess the grit

needed when times get hard, and to have the strength to push forward for a better Denmark Technical College. These, and many other factors are assurance to me that Denmark Tech is an amazing place. I am honored to continue my journey at this historic institution. I look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to transform the lives." Todd's vision is simple and shared by many at the College: "to make Denmark Technical College a recognized, high-performing Technical College with graduates that are not only capable and competitive but also creative and inventive."



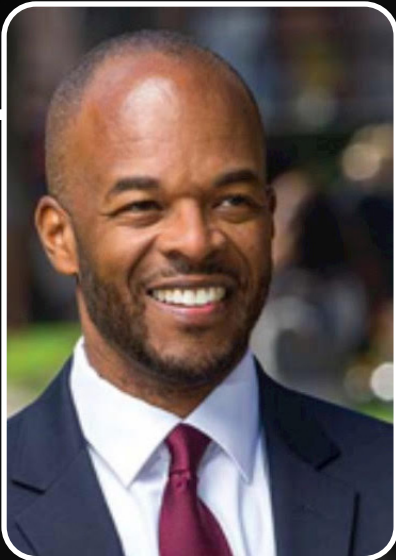
**MAUTRA JONES**  
President  
Oklahoma City Community College

Dr. Mautra Staley Jones advances and elevates each institution she touches. Dr. Jones has become one of the nation's sought-after thought leaders through her educational and community leadership. On March 1, 2022, she became the 11th President of Oklahoma City Community College, the fourth-largest institution of higher education in Oklahoma. With her appointment, Dr. Jones made history, becoming the first woman and first person of color to serve

as President of the College, serving over 18,000 students. Her appointment also made Oklahoma history as she is the first African American female to serve as president of any institution of higher education in the state that is not an HBCU (Historically Black College and University). Beyond her professional life, she is an active and engaged community member, providing leadership to various corporate, civic, and charitable organizations.

Dr. Jones holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma, an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix at San Diego, and an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University's prestigious Peabody College. She is married to United States District Judge Bernard M. Jones II, and they are the proud parents of three children.

# Previous Participants



**DONALD DEAN**  
Sr. Area Business Leader  
Novartis



**IKE UMUNNAH, JD, ED.M**  
Senior Advisor, Global Markets  
& U.S. Foreign Commercial Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Ike Umunnah (Oo-mah-nuh) is a nonlinear thinking, multi-sector senior leader with global Fortune 500, military, political, government, and entrepreneurial experience. His professional interests lie in leadership, strategic communications, international partnerships, public-private investment, and reputation management.

He is a Biden-Harris appointee to the senior leadership team of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), serving as the Director of the Office of Public Affairs and Communications. The agency leads the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing America for success in the global economy.

Before government service, Ike led global public affairs at Rockwell Automation (NYSE: ROK), the world's largest company focused on industrial automation and information technology. Ike's portfolio included: corporate communications, CEO communications, corporate social responsibility reporting, and government affairs. Additionally, from 2013-2016 Ike led global strategic partnerships for Target (NYSE: TGT) in enterprise risk management. In that role, Ike led international security and corporate social responsibility engagement with international and U.S. stakeholders to support global and domestic business operations, mitigate global risk, and enhance corporate reputation. Ike began his career successfully managing political campaigns and a start-up.



# Previous Participants



THE HONORABLE JUSTICE  
VERDA M COLVIN  
Georgia Supreme Court

is a judge of the Georgia Supreme Court. She assumed office on July 29, 2021. Her current term ends on January 1, 2029.

Colvin ran in a special election for judge of the Georgia Supreme Court. She won in the special general election on May 24, 2022.

Colvin first became a member of the Georgia Supreme Court when she was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp (R) on July 20, 2021, to replace Harold Melton.[1] Colvin was sworn in on July 29, 2021.



SID BARRON  
Vice President Corporate Development  
& Real Estate Asbury Automotive Group

**ASBURY**  
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

# Previous Participants



**LISA BENITEZ**  
Chief Diversity Officer  
United States Military Academy West Point



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**JABBAR R. BENNETT**  
Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer  
Professor of Medicine, College of Human Medicine  
Michigan State University

Jabbar R. Bennett, Ph.D. (he/him), is MSU's vice president and chief diversity officer. Bennett works to advance MSU's diversity, equity and inclusion strategic priorities along with staff in the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and partnership among senior executives, deans, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Bennett is also a professor of medicine in the College of Human Medicine.

Prior to joining MSU in December 2020, Bennett served as the inaugural associate provost for diversity and inclusion, and chief diversity officer at Northwestern University. Previously, he worked as associate dean of the Graduate School, and associate dean for diversity in the Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown University. Bennett also held administrative appointments at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and served on the faculty at Harvard, Brown and Northwestern.

Bennett received a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Spanish from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and earned a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences from Meharry Medical College. Bennett completed postdoctoral research training at Harvard Medical School and is an alumnus of the Harvard University Administrative Fellows Program and Massachusetts Education Policy Fellowship Program. Listen to Bennett's welcome interview with Russ White.

# Previous Participants

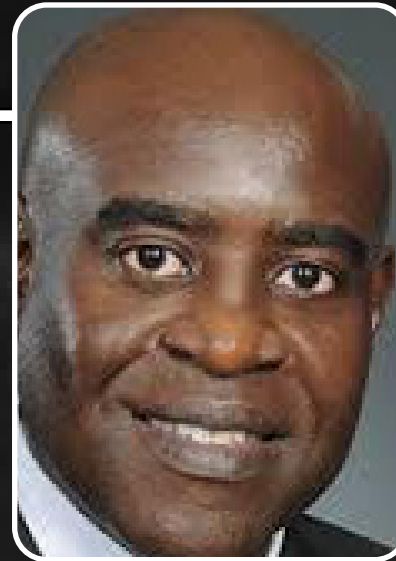


**RONALD D SULLIVAN**  
Brigadier General & Chief Judge  
U.S. Army

Brigadier General Ronald D. Sullivan serves as the Chief Judge for U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (Individual Mobilization Augmentee). His previous assignments in the U.S. Army Reserve include: Staff Judge Advocate for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command (Louisiana); Deputy Commanding Officer (East) of the U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command (Maryland); Commander of the 87th Legal Operations Detachment (LOD)

(Utah); Command Judge Advocate for the Central Medical Area Readiness Group (Illinois); Deputy Commander of the 2nd LOD (Louisiana); Deputy Team Leader & Team Leader of the 1st LOD (Texas); Assistant General Counsel at the Army Air Force Exchange Service (Texas); and his first Army Reserve assignment, in 2006, was as a Training Officer at the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service, Defense Counsel Assistance Program (Virginia). In his civilian capacity, he is the Chief of Acquisition, Personnel and Ethics Law for the U.S. Army Futures Command, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in Austin, Texas.

Brigadier General Sullivan was raised in San Antonio, Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration (Information Systems) degree from Howard University, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1993. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from The University of Kansas, School of Law in 1996.



**BOBBY HOWARD**  
Director of Multicultural Donation  
Education LifeLink Foundation

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# Previous Participants



FRANKLIN TUITT  
Vice President & Chief Diversity  
Officer University of Connecticut



EVELYN TURRENTINE-AGEE  
American Gospel Musician  
& Recording Artist



# Previous Participants



ANGELA ALLEN  
Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer  
West Texas A&M University



DUSTIN MULLIS  
Chairman Zaxby's Advisory Council  
& Zaxby's Restaurants

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# *Previous Participants*



ROSE BATTLE

Ultimate Model Management Inc.  
(UMMI) Founder, Chairman, & CEO



UMMI

MODEL & TALENT AGENCY