



THE JAGUAR FOUNDATION OF ATLANTA, INC.
presents

17th Annual
ATLANTA
ACHIEVEMENT
Awards
Scholarship Fundraising Gala

FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS

*Keynote Speaker: Daniel Whitley,
United States Dept. of Agriculture*

SAT, AUG 1, 2026 | 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM
GEORGIA AQUARIUM OCEANS BALLROOM
246 IVAN ALLEN JR. BLVD., ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30313



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

FEATURING

WOLFGANG PUCK
CATERING

RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION 5:30 PM SHARP | PROGRAM 7:00 PM



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CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

August 7, 2026

Greetings:

As the 61st Mayor of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 17th Annual Atlanta Achievement Awards, proudly presented by the Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta. I also extend a warm Atlanta welcome to keynote speaker Mr. Daniel Whittle and Dr. Orlando McMeans, Interim President of Southern University.

Investing in our young people is one of the greatest investments we can make in Atlanta's future, and the Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta continues to lead that effort. Through scholarships, mentorship, and unwavering support, the Foundation has helped countless students pursue higher education and achieve their goals. We proudly applaud its commitment to expanding opportunities for students attending Southern University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Clark Atlanta University.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients and returning scholars. Your hard work and determination inspire us all, and I encourage you to continue striving for excellence and leading with purpose.

I also commend President Derrick S. Pugh and the Jaguar Foundation Board of Directors for their outstanding service and dedication to educational achievement.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, congratulations to all the honorees, and best wishes for a memorable and inspiring celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Andre Dickens

OFFICE OF THE SU SYSTEM PRESIDENT

Dr. Orlando F. McMeans
Interim President & Chancellor

Southern University System
Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

J.S.Clark Administrative Bldg.

Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Ph: (225) 771-4680

Email 1: orlando.mcmeans@sus.edu

Email 2: orlando_mcmeans@suagcenter.com

Websites: www.sus.edu | www.suagcenter.com



Greetings,

On behalf of the Southern University System, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings and congratulations to the Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta as you celebrate the 17th Annual Atlanta Achievement Awards Scholarship Fundraising Gala.

This year's theme, "Seeds to Success," reflects the Foundation's unwavering commitment to cultivating opportunities for students through scholarship support and alumni engagement. For seventeen years, your dedication has planted seeds of hope and possibility that continue to flourish in the lives of countless students.

We are especially honored to welcome Southern University alumnus, Daniel Whitley, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, as this year's keynote speaker. His distinguished career in public service and global agricultural leadership exemplifies the excellence and impact that Southern University seeks to inspire in every student.

As the nation's only historically Black university system, Southern University remains committed to providing transformative educational opportunities while preparing students to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. The success of that mission is made possible through the steadfast support of dedicated alumni and friends such as those gathered this evening.

I also extend congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients. We are proud of you and wish you continued success as you pursue your academic endeavors and prepare to make your own meaningful impact in the world.

Thank you to the board members, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters of the Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta for your continued commitment to advancing a legacy of excellence. Together, we are planting seeds that will yield a harvest of achievement for generations to come.

As pure and true as the Gold and Blue,

Dr. Orlando F. McMeans

Interim President, Southern University System

Chancellor, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

SULC Atlanta Graduate

Spotlight



Keith E. Gammage is an Atlanta native and the solicitor general of Fulton County. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As the solicitor general, his office prosecutes misdemeanor offenses, including domestic violence, cruelty to children, impaired driving, elder abuse, and animal cruelty.

Since taking office in 2017, Gammage continues his mission of smart, fair and restorative justice through several community initiatives focused on jobs over jails and second chances. He has been recognized for his work in restorative justice and is the recipient of excellence awards from former U.S. Attorneys Sally Yates (2016) and John Horn (2017), the Pinnacle Award for Equality in Justice (2018) and the Gate City Bar Association's R.E. Thomas Civil Rights Award (2019).

Gammage is a happily married father and an active member at Ebenezer Baptist Church.



City of Stockbridge, Georgia Office of the Mayor

Dear Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta, Inc.,

On behalf of the City of Stockbridge, It is my honor to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the 17th Annual Atlanta Achievement Awards Scholarship Gala, themed “From Seeds to Success.”

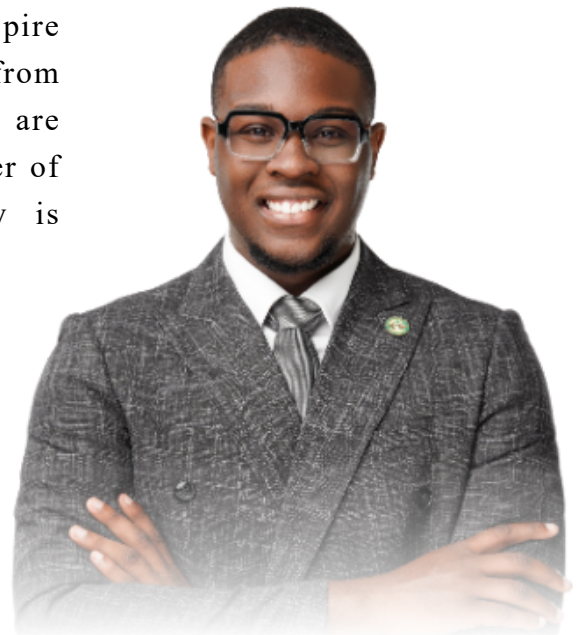
Your commitment to the Atlanta University Center community is both powerful and deeply meaningful. Through your continued engagement, you are strengthening an important pipeline of excellence and ensuring that deserving students have the resources and support needed to achieve their goals.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the President, the Gala Committee, and every supporter who has worked diligently to make this celebration possible. Thank you for believing in our students, investing in their success, and helping them transform their dreams into lasting accomplishments.

Congratulations to this year’s distinguished honorees and scholarship recipients. Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have brought you to this meaningful moment. May you continue to grow in purpose, lead with integrity, serve your communities with compassion, and inspire those who will follow in your footsteps. As you journey from seeds to success, always remember that your achievements are not only a reflection of your hard work, but also a reminder of what is possible when talent is nurtured, opportunity is provided, and a community believes in your potential.

We are All in For Stockbridge,

Jayden Williams, B.A. 23RD Mayor, Stockbridge, GA





Keynote Speaker

*U.S. Department of Agriculture's
Foreign Agricultural Service*



Daniel Whitley serves as the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. In this role, he leads USDA international operations where his chief responsibility is to expand U.S. agricultural exports. Additionally, he oversees the 150 person USDA diplomatic corps stationed around the world.

Prior to this role, Daniel served as the Associate Administrator for policy and analysis where he was responsible for guiding trade policy and analysis for the agency. In this capacity he led trade negotiating teams and represented American agriculture in international organizations. Daniel has led trade delegations to promote and sell U.S. agricultural products all over the globe. He has nearly 30 years of experience in USDA beginning his career as an intern with the Farmer's Home Administration in a rural Louisiana field office. Later he joined the Economic Research Service before starting his tenure with FAS in 2001. Since joining FAS Daniel has held numerous leadership roles but makes time investing in the next generation by recruiting students into careers in agriculture. Daniel is a native of Baton Rouge, LA and holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Southern University in Baton Rouge and a master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University. He currently lives with his family in Washington, DC.

A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

17th Annual Atlanta Achievement Awards Scholarship Gala

Dear Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta Family and Friends:

On behalf of the Southern University Alumni Federation, I extend warm greetings and heartfelt **congratulations** as you gather for the 17th Annual Atlanta Achievement Awards Scholarship Gala, themed "From Seeds to Success." This celebration reflects the enduring power of education, service, and community.

The Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta's commitment to providing scholarships for promising Atlanta-area high school students is both inspiring and essential. By helping students pursue their dreams at Southern University and A&M College and other accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities, you are opening doors of opportunity and cultivating the next generation of scholars, leaders, and changemakers.

We commend the Foundation's leadership, the Gala Committee, donors, corporate partners, volunteers, alumni, and friends whose generosity makes this work possible. Your investment does more than support a student's education; it strengthens families, uplifts communities, and leaves a legacy that cannot be erased.

To this year's distinguished honorees and scholarship recipients, **congratulations** on this well-deserved recognition. May you continue to grow with **purpose**, lead with **integrity**, and serve with **compassion**. As you move from seeds to success, know that the entire Jaguar Nation is proud of you and stands ready to assist you in your journey and cheer you forward.

With Jaguar pride,



Howard L. White Jr.

President
Southern University Alumni Federation



Tyisha Fernandes

Emcee



Tyisha Fernandes started her career as a reporter in 2004 - shooting her own stories at an NBC station in Midland TX. She quickly was promoted to anchor and worked at stations all over the country - until she landed at WSB here in Atlanta in 2014.

She was covering a lot of crime - until she proved she could bring much more value to viewers by investigating corruption and covering stories that give a voice to the voiceless. She thinks her most important role now though - is Mama to her 4 year old and wife to her husband of 7 years.



Dr. Kevin R. Murriel

Reverend



The Reverend Doctor Kevin R. Murriel currently leads over 7,000 members as the senior pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a biblical scholar and one of the leading visionaries and orators of this generation. A native Mississippian, he is a 2008 graduate of Jackson State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration, also being named as the 2008 "Student of the Year" for the College of Business. Dr. Murriel received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Duke University. He was named by the Dean and doctoral committee of Duke Divinity School as the Degree Marshal of the 2014 Doctoral Cohort—the youngest person and first African American in the program's history to receive such a designation.

A dynamic preacher, avid reader, and social activist, Dr. Murriel's research focuses on translating the methods of the Civil Rights Movement into a modern-day strategy for social justice and racial reconciliation. His doctoral dissertation titled, *Unveiling Racism: Racial Reconciliation and a Heterogeneous Model for American Christian Life*, takes strategies deployed during the Mississippi Church Visit Campaign of 1964, and offers the Church universal a formula for racial reconciliation, hope, and progress.

Dr. Murriel is the author of four books, and in 2019, Dr. Murriel was appointed by Dean Jan Love to the faculty of Candler School of Theology at Emory University as Assistant Professor in the Practice of Practical Theology and Director of the Black Methodist Seminarians Program.

Since accepting his call to ministry at age 18, Dr. Murriel has committed his life to helping people develop and maintain a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. He is a community leader and faithfully serves on several boards which include, the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA, the North Georgia Board of Congregational Development, the North Georgia Board of Ordained Ministry, the Candler Black Alumni Board, Grady Hospital Foundation Board, Clark Atlanta University Board of Visitors, the Foundation for Wesley Woods, Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers, the Joseph and Evelyn Lowery Institute, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Racial Equity Steering Committee. Dr. Murriel is a member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., and the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2019. He is a co-chair for Atlanta Leaders for 100% Literacy and the founder of The Institute for Clergy Leadership, which provides scholarships for theological education for clergy who feel called to serve in the local church.

On April 8, 2021, Dr. Murriel was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. College of Ministers and Laity Board of Preachers through Morehouse College. He has served as Chaplain for the Day at the Georgia State Senate and is a featured speaker at churches and events across the country. He is a proud life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated and is married to Dr. Ashleigh Murriel, a native of Atlanta, Georgia and an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They are the proud parents of Scarlett Grace and Anderson Blake, and serve as the executives of The Murriel Foundation, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization committed to developing minority youth to become effective leaders.

Dr. Murriel's motto in life is, "Live God, Love God, Follow God; and in all things, stay the course!"

Congratulations



Future Plans:

*Lockhead Martin Information
Security Officer
Palmdale, California*

PROGRAMME



Welcome

Derrick S. Pugh, Chairman, Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta (JFA)

Mrs. Tyiesha Fernandez, WSB-TV News Reporter, Banquet Emcee

Invocation

Reverend. Dr. Kevin Murriel, Senior Pastor, Cascade United Methodist Church

~ DINNER IS SERVED ~

Welcome and Greetings

- *Jayden Williams, Mayor of Stockbridge, Former JFA Clark Atlanta Scholar*
- *Keith Gammage, Fulton County Solicitor General, SU Law Graduate*
- *Howard White, Jr., President, Southern University Alumni Federation*

Derrick S. Pugh, Chairman & President, JFA

*State of Jaguar Foundation
Silent Auction: Brushed Artwork*

Introduction of Interim President Southern University System

*Dr. Katara A. Williams, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Institutional
Advancement and External Relations at the*

Southern University Ag Center

~ Special Video Presentation ~

Welcome and Greetings

Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Interim President & Chancellor

Southern University System

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Lena Beal, Southern University College of Agriculture Graduate



Keynote Speaker

Dan Whittley, Administrator USDA Foreign Agriculture Service,
Southern University College of Agriculture Graduate

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presented by Derrick S. Pugh, Chairman & President, JFA

**~Establishment of new \$3,000 yearly scholarship to be awarded to a SU
College of Agriculture Animal Science or Viticulture & Enology student**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Patricia Johnson, Vice President, JFA

Miranda Nixon, Financial Literacy Chair, JFA

Atlanta University Center ~ Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta

~Spelman College Scholarship

~Clark Atlanta University Scholarship

Southern University ~ Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta

~Jovita Moore HBCU Undergraduate Scholarship

~HBCU Undergraduate Scholarship

~Hester D. Richard Scholarship

~Greg and Juanita Baranco Scholarship

~ Conclusion of Awards Program ~

GROUP PHOTOS (Board Members, Scholars and Dignitaries)

Dancing to the Sounds of DJ Likwuid



2026 Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta Scholarship Award Recipients



JEFFERY GOODWIN

Senior

Morehouse College

Major: Business Management



NOELLE LANTON

Senior

Spelman College

Major: Pre Med



2026 Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta Scholarship Award Recipients



Zoe Green
Freshman
Major: Music

Southern University and A&M College



IMANI RICHARDSON
Sophomore
Major: Biology

Southern University and A&M College



JOI ECTOR
Junior

Major: Family and Consumer Sciences
Southern University and A&M College



ALIYAH BEAL
Senior

Major: Finance
Southern University and A&M College



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In Loving Memory of Jovita Moore

JFA Advisory Board Member and Atlanta Achievement Awards Host

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The Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta extends its warmest gratitude to the entire family of supporters on behalf of the young people we serve. We hope you enjoyed this year's event and look forward to seeing you next year!

VENDORS

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Karmen Bowie (Musical Performer)



DJ Likwuld



Bro Tagz Embroidery LLC

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Fabulina Designs

Golf Tournament Productions

P. Sherrod & Co

Vanity By Alexis

Southern University Department of Agriculture



Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

**God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.**



Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta, Inc.

Mission

Is to fully fund four year undergraduate scholarships to greater Atlanta Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors attending Southern University A&M College, and Metro Atlanta HBCUs (Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University). This vision cannot become a reality without the support of the Greater Atlanta business community as well as individual donors/patrons.

Donate

**On behalf of our JFA Scholars, we thank you and
look forward to your continued support.**

Please make your tax-deductible contribution today!



**Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta, Inc.
3645 Marketplace Boulevard, #339
East Point, GA 30344**

OUR CONTACT

 info@jfatl.org

 www.jfatl.org