

*9th Annual*

DIAMOND



AWARDS

**2025**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025**

**9TH ANNUAL DIAMOND AWARDS**

*Diamond Awards Program*

**THE BUCKHEAD CLUB**

**ATLANTA, GA**

- BROUGHT TO YOU BY -



AT&T

*tag.*



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.

**FAMU**



**ALLIANCE**  
— ENTERPRISES —



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# *Our Mission*

## **The Not Alone Foundation**

### **Our Mission**

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the awareness and prevention of kidney disease and enhancing the quality of life of sufferers by providing educational and medical resources and financial assistance for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families. Using the platforms of entertainment, wellness, arts and design as mediums to help forward our mission, NAF educates, inspires and uplifts, working determinedly to confront and conquer this global epidemic.

In addition to the integration of our four core programs, NAF supports interconnected health initiatives such diabetes and high blood pressure awareness, as well as cancer prevention and integrative treatment.

The Not Alone Foundation Inc., in its efforts to combat this global epidemic with impacting the quality of life of affected individuals, we do the small things that make a big difference! NAF is pleased to also partner with other foundations /organizations as community and civically engaged partners to support other initiatives, missions, & visions that perpetuate service above self for the greater good of the community.

The Diamond Awards is a program designed to honor faces and images of excellence in the entertainment, corporate and creative industries for their professional accomplishments and contributions to our society on a local, state, or international level.





# *Our Impact*

## **The Not Alone Foundation**

### **Our Impact**

Every year, more than 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney failure and more than 400,000 Americans suffer from (ESKD), which occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to function at a level needed for day-today life. The average estimated cost of a kidney transplant in the United States is more than \$250,000. The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for CKD and ESRD patients and their families.

The goals of the organization are two-fold: to help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list and to support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD. The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus following his own challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list. In addition to providing financial assistance for patients, the foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.





# Chairman

## Chairman

### The Not Alone Foundation

Welcome to the 8th Annual Diamond Awards

The Not Alone Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to providing financial assistance and educational and medical resources for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families.

The goals of the organization are two-fold:

- To help adult end-stage renal disease patients become members of the official kidney transplant list
- To support the families of children and teens suffering from ESRD.

The Not Alone Foundation was established by Mark Dodd, Morehouse College Alumnus and The University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Mark Dodd while awaiting the challenges to get on the official kidney transplant list, managed to provide financial assistance for patients. The foundation also sponsors research and public education that promotes the prevention of diseases that can lead to kidney failure.



**MARK DODD**





# President

## President

### The Not Alone Foundation

On behalf of the board of trustees, senior leadership, and staff of the Not Alone Foundation, Inc,

I welcome you to the 8th Annual Diamond Awards!

The Not Alone Foundation is committed to embracing the needs of individuals that aligns with our mission, vision, and initiatives provided by the foundation.

As President of the foundation, I am humbled to serve; and dedicated to continue my commitment to the community through this distinguished charity.

As we celebrate the 8th Diamond Awards we pause to end the holiday season with acknowledgement of the Christmas season as we give to those less fortunate. The leadership of the foundation is proud to pay tribute to the global face of civil rights, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s day of service and birthday as a community production through the Diamond Awards that is the vehicle that introduces the celebration of Black History month; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion professionals; Essential Workers as Heroes; and our slate of luminaires that will be honored during this 8th Annual Diamond Awards presentation!

**ROBERT JACKSON**





# Atlanta, Ga

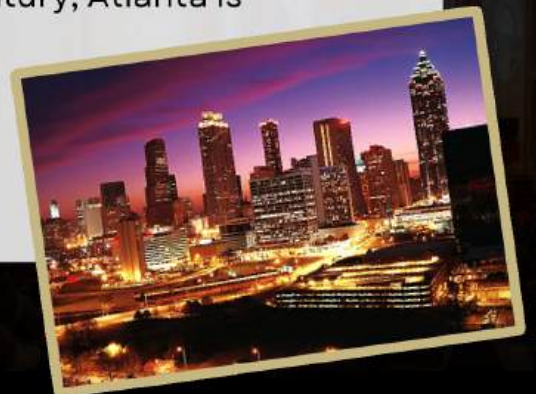
## Atlanta, Ga

### The Diamond of the South

Atlanta, Georgia, founded in 1837 as the end of the Western & Atlantic railroad line (it was first named Marthasville in honor of the then-governor's daughter, nicknamed Terminus for its rail location, and then changed soon after to Atlanta, the feminine of Atlantic -- as in the railroad).

Today the fast-growing city remains a transportation hub, not just for the country but also for the world: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest in daily passenger flights. Direct flights to Europe, South America, and Asia have made metro Atlanta easily accessible to the more than 1,000 international businesses that operate here and the more than 50 countries that have representation in the city through consulates, trade offices, and chambers of commerce. The city has emerged as a banking center and boasts the third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the country.

Atlanta is the capital city of the Southeast, a city of the future with strong ties to its past. The old in new Atlanta is the soul of the city, the heritage that enhances the quality of life in a contemporary city. In the turbulent 60s, Atlanta was "the city too busy to hate." And today, in the 21st century, Atlanta is the "city not too busy to care."





# Lifetime Achievement

## **Lifetime Achievement | Broadcast Executive American Civil Rights Leader**

Xernona Clayton as an American civil rights leader and broadcasting executive. During the Civil Rights Movement, she worked for the National Urban League and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she became involved in the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later, Clayton went into television, where she became the first African American from the southern United States to host a daily prime time talk show. She became corporate vice president for Turner Broadcasting.

Xernona Clayton has been honored worldwide for her contributions to humanity, which includes: Bronze Women of the Year for Human Relations, 1969; Communications Woman of Achievement Award by the Atlanta Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television, 1984-85; First Black woman to receive The Trailblazer Award by the Greater Atlanta Club Business and Professional Woman; Superior Television

Named one of Georgia's Most Influential Women 1984 and Black Georgian of the Year 1984; being included in Leadership Atlanta, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, 1971; named Bethune-Tubman Woman of the Year Award, Chicago, 1985; Named Woman of the Year by Black Women Hall of Fame foundation, 1985; T; named one of the nation's Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women by Dollars and Sense Magazine, 1985; being one of Seven Atlanta honorees for Black Achievers Award by the Equitable, 1986; being inducted into the Academy of Women Achievers by the YWCA, 1986; Communications Award by the OICs of America, 1986; American Spirit Award by the United States Air Force Recruiting Service, 1987; and receiving the President's Award by the National Conference of Mayors, 1983.



**XERNONA CLAYTON**



# Lifetime Achievement

## Excellence in Entertainment

**Actor | Producer | Director**

### *Johnny Ray Gill*

An American actor known for his work in television, film, and theater. He has received attention for his versatility and strong performances across various roles. Below is an overview of his background and notable works:

#### Early Life

Born in Portland, Oregon. He pursued acting early in life and honed his craft by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Southern California and later a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, San Diego.

#### Personal Style

Often recognized for his ability to bring sincerity and intensity to his roles, making even minor characters memorable. He has a reputation for choosing roles that challenge societal narratives and resonate on a human level.

#### Career and Filmography

Johnny Ray Gill has appeared in a variety of television shows and films, often taking on complex and memorable roles.

Some highlights include:

1. "Rectify" (2013–2016)
2. "Underground" (2016–2017)
3. "Harry's Law" (2011–2012)
4. "True Blood" (2012)

In addition to his television, Gill has also contributed to the theater world, where he has delivered powerful performances in several stage productions.



**JOHNNY RAY GILL**



# Event Program

## Event Program

### Program Listing

#### ***The Diamond Awards Gala: An Evening of Culinary Excellence***

**4:00pm**

#### ***The Diamond Awards Ceremony***

**5:00pm**

#### ***Diamond Awards Welcome:***

***Nevaina Rhodes, Actress***

#### ***Special Awards Unveiling:***

***The Diamond Awards Dr. Anne Wimbush Watts***

***Excellence for Community & Civic Engagement***

***Narration: Nevania Rhodes***

#### ***Recipients:***

- ***Dr. David Marrow (Professor of Music, Morehouse College)***
- ***John Zachary (Retired, Morehouse College)***
- ***Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, Ph.D. (Professor of History, University of Connecticut)***

#### ***Musical Tribute***

***To Dr. Anne Wimbush 'Mother Morehouse' Watts***

***Members of The Morehouse College Glee Club***

#### ***Musical Tribute***

***Honorees: Performance by Greg Kirkland, Artist***

#### ***A Tribute to the National Treasure:***

***Ms. Xernona Clayton***

***Presented by The Not Alone Foundation, Inc.,  
The Academy of the Diamond Awards***



# *Event Program*

## **Event Program Program Listing**

### ***Presentations of the Diamond Awards***

***Prof. Bonang Francis Mohale, Chancellor, University of the Free State***

***Donald W. Brady, Executive Vice President, Educational Affairs  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center***

***C. Andre Christie Mizell, Vice Provost, Graduate Education & Dean  
Graduate School, & Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs,  
Vanderbilt University***

***Charlie Bolton, Senior Vice President, Mid Markets -  
AT&T  
Anthony Tuggle***

***The Diamond Awards "A Creative Tribute to Honorees"  
Kendra Williams & Sophie Moseby Williams  
(Writers, respectively)***

***Continuation of Diamond Awards Presentations  
Dr. Indra K. Reddy, Interim Chief Operating Officer & Vice President, Texas  
A&M Health  
DeVika Patridge  
Timothy Beard, Interim President, Florida A&M University (FAMU)  
Matthew Wilson, Dean & President, Temple University-Japan  
Alonzo Foster, Holistic Health Practitioner, Zholistic Life***

***Diamond Awards Musical Tribute to Honorees: Performance by Dr. Sherry  
Dukes-Williams' Soprano***



# *Event Program*

## **Event Program**

### **Program Listing**

#### ***Presentations of the Diamond Awards***

***Michael Sagas, Dean, College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management,  
University of South Carolina***

***Anthony B. Jenkins, Actor***

***Santana Flanigan, General Counsel, Rockdale County Public Schools &  
Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Georgia School of Law***

***Antonio Robinson, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary,  
Corporate Social Responsibility & Chief Compliance Officer***

***Justin Cutler***

***Dr. Dwayne Hooks, Dean & Professor, Clayton State University***

***Diamond Awards Musical Tribute to Honorees: Indra Thomas' Soprano***

#### ***Continuation of Diamond Awards Presentations***

***Cecil Howard, Associate Provost for Academic Programs & Interim Dean of  
the College of Law, Florida A&M University***

***Sarah Willie McGriff, President, Smith College***

***Curtis Adams, Chief of Police, Bibb County School District***

***Al Panu, Chancellor, University of South Carolina, Beaufort***

***Armond Lawson, Head of Middle School, Gilman School***

***Conway C.S. Campbell, Ed.D., Vice President of Student Success,  
Assumption University***

***Marsha McGriff, Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion, UMass Amherst***

***Comfort Ateh, Professor, Providence College***

***Markis Piper, Chairman, Catalytic Consulting***

***Diamond Awards Musical Tribute to Honorees: Sonya Williams***

#### ***Words of Thanks***

***Mark Dodd, Chairman & CEO***



THE  
DIAMOND AWARDS



*Thank You*

Sherry Dukes  
Williams  
Soprano/Vocalist



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.  
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Vivian Sullivan

Maria Clark

Soprano

[www.TheNotAloneFoundation.com](http://www.TheNotAloneFoundation.com)



*9th Annual*

DIAMOND



AWARDS

**2025**

*Diamond Awards*

**20 AD**  
**25 BOOK**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025





*Lifetime Achievement*

2024 Diamond Award Recipient

**Xernona Clayton**

*presented by:*

**Sid Barron**

Asbury Automotive Group







*Johnny Ray Gill*  
**JOHNNY RAY GILL**

**2025 DIAMOND AWARD  
EXCELLENCE IN ENTERTAINMENT**



**FAMU**

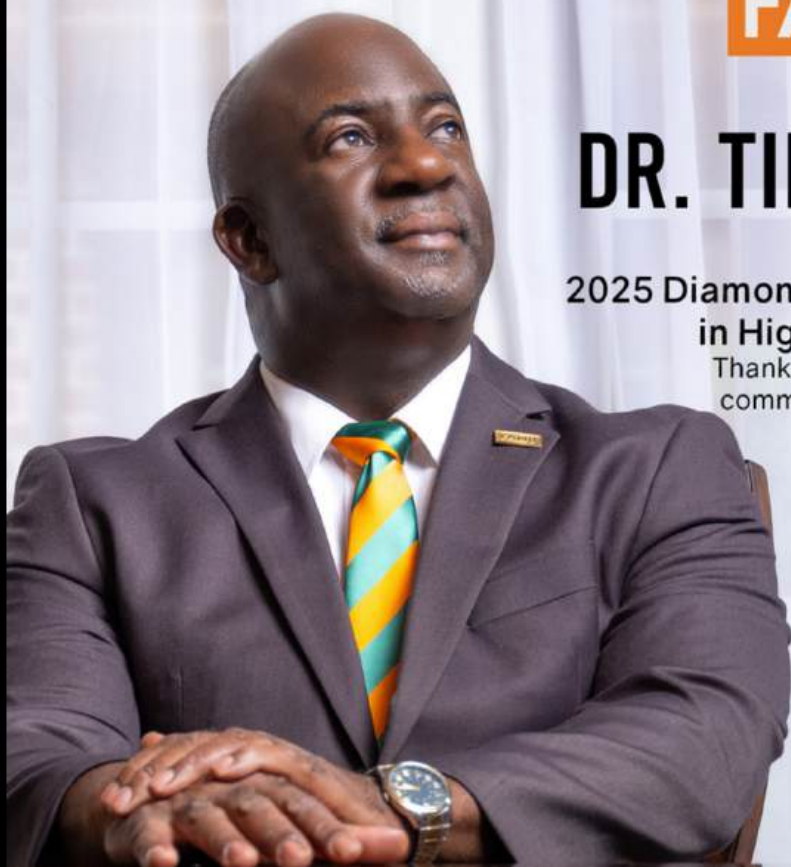
FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
MECHANICAL  
UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATES

# DR. TIMOTHY L. BEARD

Recipient of the  
**2025 Diamond Award for Lifetime Achievement  
in Higher Education Leadership.**

Thank you for your legacy of service and  
commitment to Excellence with Caring.







# Career-building majors & saving sea turtles



MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

 **USCBB**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT

[uscb.edu](http://uscb.edu) BLUFFTON | BEAUFORT | HILTON HEAD ISLAND

SCDNR PERMIT MTP555



A professional headshot of Shannon Watkins, a Black woman with long, dark, curly hair. She is wearing a blue blazer over a white collared shirt and a silver chain necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid grey.

Amplifying  
our purpose.  
Elevating  
the brand.

Shannon Watkins  
EVP and Chief Brand, Marketing  
and Communications Officer  
Fiserv

**fiserv.**





## **Matthew J. Wilson, Esq. | President & Dean**



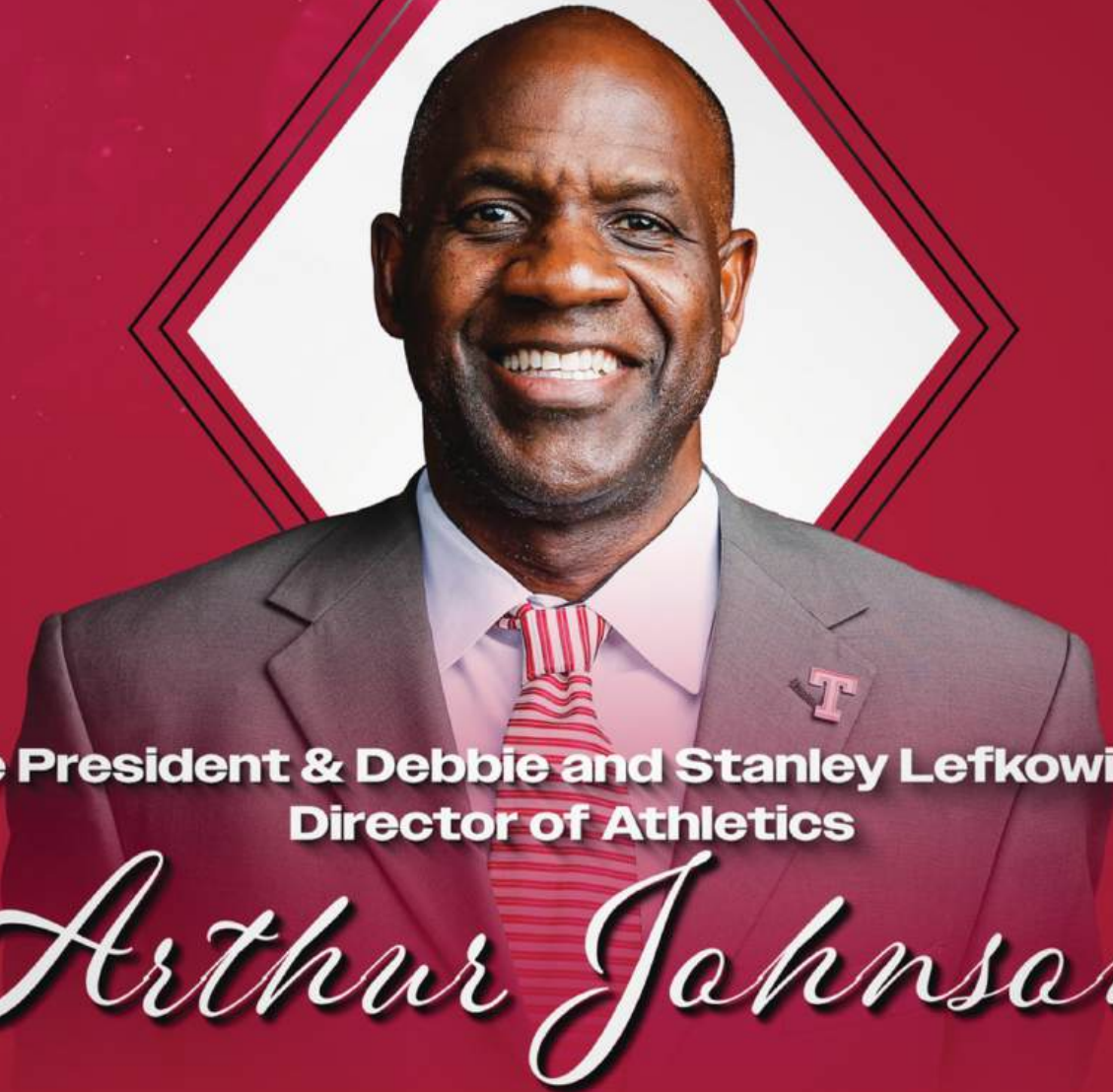
### **2025 Diamond Award Recipient** ***Excellence in Higher Education & Global Citizenship***

Prioritizing students and global engagement, Matt Wilson is a visionary servant leader whose career in the U.S. and Asia has transformed higher education. At the Japan campus of Temple University, Wilson has doubled undergraduate student enrollment, launched a second location in Kyoto, fostered student success, forged key partnerships, and pioneered innovative opportunities.

Wilson's career spans two U.S. public university presidencies (Univ. of Akron and Missouri Western) and a distinguished tenure in legal education. Known for his commitment to excellence, global connectivity, and innovation, he holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Utah and a Juris Doctor from Temple University. Before his higher education career, Wilson worked as an international lawyer in Florida and in business in Japan.



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
**CONGRATULATES**



**Vice President & Debbie and Stanley Lefkowitz '65  
Director of Athletics**

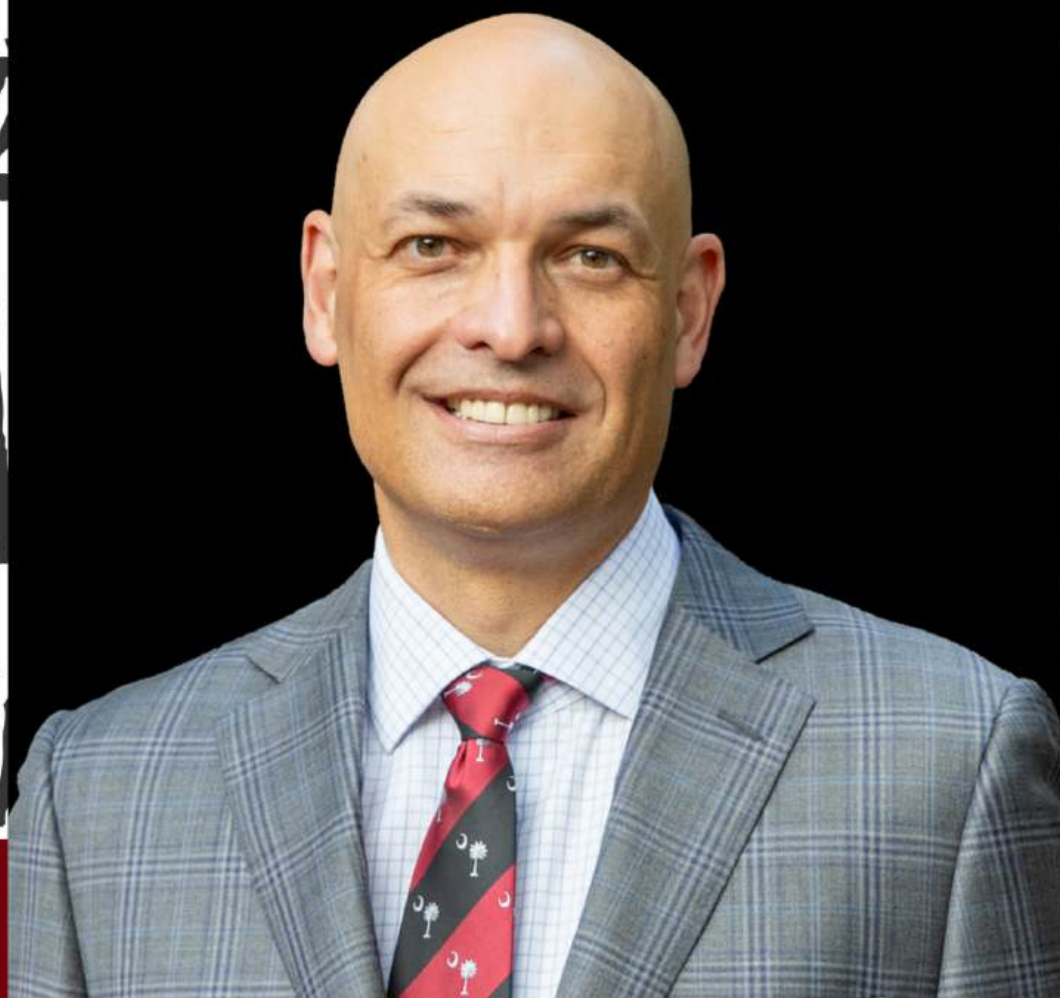
*Arthur Johnson*

**2025 Diamond Award Recipient**

*Excellence in Leadership*







# CONGRATULATIONS DEAN MICHAEL SAGAS

Recieipient of the Diamond Award for Lifetime Achievement in  
Higher Education Leadership, Philanthropy, Humanitarianism,  
Civic & Community Engagement.



**Hospitality, Retail and  
Sport Management**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA





# COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY, RETAIL AND SPORT MANAGEMENT

We empower passionate students with innovative curriculum, experiential learning and global partnerships, preparing them to lead the world's most vibrant industries that connect cultures, inspire adventure and enrich lives.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

[sc.edu/hrsm](https://sc.edu/hrsm)





THE  
DIAMOND AWARDS



*Congratulations*

**Anthony E. Tuggle**

Executive Leader | Mentor | Executive Coach | Keynote  
Speaker | Community Advocate | Author

**2025 DIAMOND AWARD RECIPIENT OF  
EXCELLENCE IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP,  
BUSINESS INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



**NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.**

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER







# Anthony E. Tuggle

Executive Leader | Mentor | Executive Coach | Keynote  
Speaker | Community Advocate | Author

Anthony Tuggle is a transformational executive leader with over 25 years of experience driving innovation and growth across global consumer and enterprise operations. Renowned for his servant leadership and strategic vision, he has led multibillion-dollar organizations through significant change, overseeing teams in customer care, sales, marketing, product development, and AI-driven customer experience.

Beyond the boardroom, Anthony is a dedicated mentor and community advocate, serving on boards such as the National Kidney Foundation, National Sales Network, and Emory University's Goizueta Business School. As an executive coach, author and keynote speaker, he empowers individuals and organizations to lead with purpose and resilience.

Grounded in faith and humility, Anthony's leadership reflects a commitment to people-centered growth and lasting impact.





# THE PATHWAY FORWARD

The logo is a dark blue square with the text "CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY" in white, serif, all-caps font, centered within the square.

CLAYTON  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

The background image is a collage. The top half shows a large, modern university building at night with many lit windows and a paved plaza in front. The bottom half shows an indoor campus scene with students. On the left, a student is sitting at a table. In the center, three female students are walking and talking; one is wearing a black sweatshirt with "CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY" and another is wearing an orange shirt with "PROUD LAKER". On the right, a male student is sitting on a blue armchair, looking at a book. The floor is light-colored and the walls are orange.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH  
TEACHING, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE.



[clayton.edu](http://clayton.edu)



# Congratulations

## Dr. Dwayne Hooks

### RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 DIAMOND AWARD

Clayton State University proudly celebrates Dr. Dwayne Hooks for being recognized with the prestigious Diamond Award, honoring his unwavering commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and transformational leadership.

Dr. Hooks exemplifies the values of integrity, innovation, and inclusion that guide our university. His impact on students, faculty, and the broader community continues to shine brilliantly—just like a diamond.

***“Your brilliance inspires those around you to dream bigger, reach higher, and lead with purpose.”***

— Clayton State University Family

We celebrate you, Dr. Hooks.

Your legacy continues to shape the future.

# CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY







*Thank You*



NOT ALONE FOUNDATION, INC.  
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

[www.TheNotAloneFoundation.com](http://www.TheNotAloneFoundation.com)



