

JAMES M. “JAY” BAILEY – Speaker Bio

President & CEO — H.J. Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs (RICE)

Global Speaker | Visionary Leader | Builder of Legacy, Opportunity & Community

WHO JAY IS

James M. “Jay” Bailey is a visionary leader, celebrated entrepreneur, and globally recognized voice at the intersection of innovation, economic mobility, and generational legacy. Guided by his lifelong ethos—*Build As We Climb*—Jay has dedicated his work to expanding access, ownership, and opportunity while remaining deeply anchored to the belief that leadership carries responsibility not only to the present, but to the generations that follow.

An Atlanta native, Jay serves as President and CEO of the H.J. Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs (RICE), the world’s largest center dedicated to developing and scaling Black-owned businesses. Under his leadership, RICE has emerged as a national blueprint for inclusive innovation—supporting more than 600 entrepreneurs, sustaining over 4,000 jobs, and generating more than half a billion dollars in annual economic impact across Atlanta. More than numbers, the work reflects Jay’s conviction that when talent, capital, culture, and community are intentionally aligned, lasting economic transformation is possible.

Jay is a three-time TED speaker whose leadership has been recognized by three U.S. Presidents. He is one of only eight Americans ever honored at the White House as a *Champion of Change: Following in the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, a distinction recognizing a lifetime commitment to service, equity, and community transformation. In 2025, *Black Enterprise Magazine* named Jay among its national **Visionaries**, recognizing leaders shaping the future of business, innovation, and opportunity.

His leadership has also been widely recognized at the local and state levels. Jay has been named one of Atlanta’s *Most Admired CEOs* by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, featured on *Atlanta Magazine’s POWER 100*, and recognized by *Georgia Trend* as one of the *100 Most Influential Leaders in the State of Georgia*. His national honors include the National Point of Light Award, the Whitney M. Young National Community Service Medallion, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Service Award, and the Bernie Marcus Downtown Economic Impact Award—among many others that reflect his enduring commitment to service, innovation, and generational impact.

Beyond his executive leadership, Jay serves across major civic, educational, and philanthropic institutions, including the Georgia Chamber, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Agnes Scott College, the University of Georgia, the Invest Atlanta Foundation, and the Atlanta Speech School. A longtime landowner and trustee of the Georgia Forestry Foundation, he is also the founder of the Black Land Institute, launching in 2026—an initiative focused on restoring the connection

between land, ownership, and legacy within Black communities. His work spans conservation, stewardship, and the restoration of outdoor traditions, advancing a future where land is not only an asset, but a source of identity, resilience, and generational power.

Behind all of Jay's work is what matters most: his family. He and his wife, NBC News and *Dateline* correspondent Blayne Alexander, are raising their daughters, Sage and Skylar, with intention and humility—keeping his leadership grounded in the future he hopes to help shape.

When Jay Bailey takes the stage, audiences don't just listen—they shift. They see differently. They believe again. He delivers clarity, courage, and a call to build—together.

SIGNATURE KEYNOTE TOPICS

1. Build As We Climb: Leadership for a New Generation

A transformative exploration of leadership rooted in service, courage, and shared ascent.

2. Reimagining Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Access & the New Economy

Lessons from building one of the nation's most influential ecosystems for Black entrepreneurs.

3. The Power of Ownership: Land, Wealth & Generational Stewardship

Why ownership—and especially land—is foundational to generational mobility, freedom, and community strength.

4. The Call to Build: Courage, Vision & Creating What Doesn't Yet Exist

A message for organizations, leaders, and communities ready to imagine and create the future.

5. Belonging & the Architecture of Opportunity

How belonging fuels innovation, performance, trust, and long-term institutional health.

6. The Power of Community: How Shared Strength Builds Generations

Community not simply as a value, but as strategy, infrastructure, and competitive advantage.

WHAT AUDIENCES GAIN

- A renewed sense of purpose and clarity
- Modern frameworks for leadership and legacy
- Tools to innovate and build equitable ecosystems
- A deeper understanding of belonging, access, and opportunity

- A reframed vision of land, wealth, stewardship, and generational impact
- Inspiration paired with actionable strategy

IDEAL AUDIENCES

Corporate and Fortune 500 organizations
Innovation and entrepreneurship networks
Higher education institutions
Foundations and philanthropic groups
Government and civic leadership
Culture-forward and people-centered organizations
Economic development and business coalitions
Youth, emerging leaders, and legacy builders

FORMATS & FEES

Keynotes
Executive Leadership Sessions
Fireside Chats
Panels & Moderated Conversations
Workshops & Retreats
Virtual & Global Engagements

Keynote engagements typically range from **\$10,000–\$25,000**, depending on the scope, format, and level of customization. That said, Jay believes deeply in showing up where the work matters. His team thoughtfully considers every invitation—from large global stages to community-centered gatherings—and approaches each request with care, curiosity, and a genuine desire to be helpful.

If your event aligns in purpose and spirit, they welcome a conversation to explore what's possible, regardless of size or budget.

BOOKING & REPRESENTATION

All speaking inquiries are managed by:

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