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JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise



JONES COLLEGE
of BUSINESS

**2023 LEADERSHIP
AWARDS**

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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Young Professional of the Year Award

Charles Avent Jr.

Charles Avent Jr. is a strategic visionary, an experienced health care management professional, and a real estate executive with significant career accomplishments. He is a senior project manager for HCA Healthcare/Parallon's Corporate Affairs and Digital Marketing Division and held leadership roles with HCA Healthcare

for over 11 years. He serves on the Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce Board, Nashville Children's Theatre Board of Trustees, and Middle Tennessee State University Department of Economics and Finance Advisory Board, and he is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Tennessee Association of Realtors, and the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors. He is an MTSU alumnus, with an M.B.A. focused on Health Care Management and a B.B.A.



Jones College Exemplar Award

Jami Averwater

Jami Averwater is a proud graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and Belmont University College of Law. She is the co-founder and owner of Hywater Title, which has been noted as one of the fastest-growing title companies in middle Tennessee. In addition to Hywater, she maintains an active law practice,

where she specializes in business law. Averwater also serves on the Murfreesboro Planning Commission and in 2022 was elected to the Murfreesboro City Council. She is the youngest female ever elected to serve in this role. While in office, she hopes to improve access to recycling for all city residents and advocate for Murfreesboro's public park system.



Joe M. Rodgers Spirit of America Award

Lisa Nix

Lisa Nix is a certified public accountant and shareholder at LBMC, a Top 35 accounting and business consulting firm. Nix joined LBMC as a shareholder in 2014 to launch and lead the firm's transaction advisory services. She brings over 30 years of experience in public accounting and health care to her role. Nix has more than

18 years of experience leading merger and acquisition transaction services teams for both strategic and financial buyers. She has led M&A teams for transactions ranging from several million dollars to over \$7 billion. Prior to joining LBMC, she was a managing director in Deloitte & Touche's National Life Sciences and Health Care M&A Services. Nix earned her B.B.A. in Accounting from MTSU.



Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award

John Cipriano

John Cipriano is a senior director with Alvarez and Marsal North American Commercial Restructuring in Dallas. He specializes in management within financial institutions. With three decades of experience, Cipriano's main areas include developing target operating

models, risk mitigation, development of policies and procedures, commercial and industrial lending, residential credit analysis, portfolio management, enhancing sales, and profit and loss responsibilities for banks and non-banks. He earned his bachelor's degree in Finance at MTSU and is a frequent speaker at industry conferences on such topics as financial institution risks, commercial loan credit reviews, consumer and commercial mortgage finance compliance, and operational improvements.