Biography

Erika H. James became the John H. Harland Dean of Emory University’s Goizueta Business School in July 2014. A published researcher and award-winning educator with a passion for consulting and speaking, she places an emphasis on what higher education can do to be of service to industry. James says business leaders need to have a broad understanding of the world and problem solving, thus championing avenues of creative thinking and liberal arts education. A staunch “virtue capitalist,” James believes business can be a force of positive change in society, going beyond the bottom line to create products, solutions, and/or services that not only better industry, but communities.

A noted influencer in her field, James sits not only on multiple councils and committees at Emory University, but is an active board member of the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC), SurveyMonkey and Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. She is a previous board member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the foremost accrediting body in business education. In 2017, James was named one of the most admired CEOs in education by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Her expertise in workplace diversity and crisis leadership has led to recognition in scholarly journals and mainstream media including The Wall Street Journal, Yahoo! Finance, and CNBC.

Under James’ leadership, Goizueta remains one of the top business schools in the nation with an upward trajectory in student career success, diversity, and faculty thought leadership. As of May 2019, the school boasted one of the most gender-diverse faculty populations in the top 25—34 percent female. Most recently, in Spring 2019, she received the Earl Hill Jr. Faculty Achievement and Diversity Award from The Consortium—an organization committed to increasing diversity in business, starting with graduate business school admissions.

Before arriving at Goizueta, James served as the Senior Associate Dean for Executive Education at Darden She also served as an assistant professor at Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business, and a visiting professor at Harvard Business School. James holds a Ph.D. and Master’s degree in organizational psychology from the University of Michigan. She received a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Pomona College of the Claremont Colleges in California.
Event Appearances
Where to Next? Reinvent Your Career
10th Annual NAWMBA Women in Leadership Conference

Education
University of Michigan
PhD Organizational Psychology

University of Michigan
Master's Organizational Psychology

Pomona College
Bachelor's Psychology

Accomplishments
Named to Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016
Dean Erika James was honored in 2016.

Top 10 Educators Making a Difference (2014)
James appeared on the top list of women making an impact in education.

The Root 100 Top 100 Under 50 Award (2010)
Professor Erika James was honored in 2010.

Colley/Mead Faculty Award (2010)
Professor Erika James was honored in 2010.

Named to Diversity MBA Magazine's "Top 100 under 50" (2009)
Diversity MBA Magazine: discussing, celebrating and supporting diversity in business.

Nominated for the Outstanding Faculty Award (2007, 2006, 2004)
Professor Erika James was nominated for the Outstanding Faculty Award by the class of 2007, 2006, and 2004 at the Darden Graduate School of Business, University of Virginia.

Named to Ebony Magazine Power 100 (2014)
James appeared on a list of the most influential and inspiring African-Americans.

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