

# JM Family Enterprises honors four African-American Achievers

**BY MARCIA HEROUX  
POUNDS**  
Staff writer

Four people — a teacher, an artist and two business mentors — will receive this year's African-American Achievers Awards.

The awards are sponsored by JM Family Enterprises and its automobile distributorships Southeast Toyota and JM Lexus, in honor of company founder Jim Moran.

The four recipients are Jaret L. Davis, in the Business and Entrepreneurism category; Dixie Lee Hedrington-Miller, in the Arts & Culture category; Gilbert Lancelot Raiford, in Community Service; and Ricky Wiggins, in Education.

The awards, which are open to the public, are scheduled to be presented at a ceremony at 6:30 p.m. April 20 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.

RSVP by April 15 at [african-americanachievers.com](http://african-americanachievers.com) or call 866-516-2497.

In recognition of the award winners, JM Family and its subsidiaries will make a contribution of \$10,000 in each Achiever's name to the charities of choice, a total of \$40,000. JM Family has donated nearly \$450,000 in the names of its African-American Achievers.

The 2016 honorees were selected by an independent

panel of community leaders, including former Achievers, from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. The selection committee reviewed more than 250 nominations received from around South Florida after an extensive public outreach campaign.

"Our company's founder, Jim Moran, created this program to recognize unsung heroes for the accom-

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plishments and contributions they make in South Florida," said Colin Brown, president and CEO of JM Family." This year's Achievers are role models in our community with stories of hardship, perseverance and selfless giving."

Davis, co-managing partner of Greenberg Traurig law firm in Miami, has worked to build South Florida tech ecosystem, co-founding the eMerge Americas technology conference, which is getting ready for its third year in Miami. He also volunteers as a mentor in the startup community, focusing particularly on black-owned companies.

Hedrington-Miller is a professional artist who discovered there were limited creative outlets for people



Davis



Hedrington-Miller

and adults through arts programs.

Raiford has spent nearly 40 years teaching at the university level, most recently at Barry University in Miami. While tutoring children in Liberty City, he

with disabilities, when looking for activities for her son who is deaf. So she founded Friends & Stars, a nonprofit dedicated to the well-being of South Florida's special needs children



Raiford



Wiggins

been mentoring children in the community through the I Have a Dream Foundation for 20 years. I Have a Dream works with low-income students from elementary school to college. The award notes that Wiggins

found that none of them had flown on a plane, eaten at a restaurant or traveled outside the county. So he raised funds to take 25 youths on a week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

Wiggins has

often has been a father figure to children who lack a positive role model. He has encouraged, inspired and pushed a generation of young people to stay on the path toward completing school and pursuing higher education.

JM Family Enterprises is a \$14.5 billion automotive company ranked No. 23 on Fortune's list of American's Largest Private Companies. Moran founded the company in 1968.

Moran died in 2007 at age 88, but his legacy has continued through JM Family, African-American Achievers and, most recently, the Moran family's and Jim Moran Foundation's \$100 million gift to Florida State University to create the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship.

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