



## **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



### **Quentin James, Vestige Strategies**

Hailing from Greenville, SC, Quentin James is the Black Americans Director for the Ready for Hillary PAC. In his role, Quentin directs the PAC's outreach to the black community across all 50 states. Formerly the National Director for the Sierra Club's Sierra Student Coalition, the nation's largest youth environmental organization, Quentin directed the organization to train, empower, and organize youth to run effective campaigns that resulted in tangible environmental victories and developed leaders for the environmental movement. Quentin began organizing at the age of 15 when a friend

gave him a palm card. On that palm card was a quote from a tobacco executive who, when asked if he smoked, replied, "We don't smoke that shit. We just sell it. We reserve that right for the young, the poor, the black and the stupid." Enraged, Quentin got involved with a local group of teens to push back against big tobacco. Through the power of word of mouth "viral-mentalism," Quentin and the Rage Against the Haze network decreased statewide teen smoking rates in South Carolina by 17% in two short years.

In 2008, Quentin served as the Deputy Youth Vote Director in Ohio for the Obama Campaign where he helped organize 315,000 college students at 32 colleges and universities, and doubled youth voter turnout at the Ohio State University. In 2009 Quentin joined Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick's legislative staff on Capitol Hill serving as a staff assistant and legislative correspondent, and afterwards served as the Executive Political Aide for Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins at Green for All. In 2011, Quentin co-founded Vestige Strategies, a boutique Public Affairs firm that specializes in grassroots community engagement, public affairs and government relations. One of Vestige's earliest accomplishments was managing the successful state senate campaign in South Carolina for state Rep. Karl Allen.

Quentin's work has been featured in many national outlets, books, and publications such as the Washington Post, NPR, USA Today, Ebony & Jet Magazines, the Tavis Smiley Radio Show and Tina Rosenberg's New York Times Bestseller "Join the Club." In 2012 Quentin was named one of the Envest Foundation's, "40 under 40," named one of Washington, DC's top "30 under 30" by WKYS 93.9FM, and one of the 2013 Community Champions of Change by Impact-DC. From 2009 – 2013 Quentin served as a national board member for the NAACP. Now he's a board member for Headcount, an organization that works with major artists and musicians to promote participation in democracy. Quentin received a Bachelors of Arts in Africana Studies at Howard University and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Quentin currently resides in Washington, DC with his wife Stefanie Brown James.