C.K. Steele Human Rights Institute

Fostering Legacy · Inspiring Justice · Safeguarding Tomorrow

James L. *Davis, Jr.*

James L. Davis, Jr. serves as Executive Director of the C.K. Steele Human Rights Institute, leading efforts to preserve and advance the legacy of one of Florida's landmark civil rights organizations. As the eldest grandson of Reverend C.K. Steele and son of Steele's only daughter, Rochelle "Pat" Steele, Davis is committed to ensuring the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement inspire future generations. He fulfills the Institute's mission through educational programming, cultural preservation, leadership development, and strategic partnerships—grounded in the belief that understanding history is essential to building stronger, more inclusive communities.

An alumnus of both Florida State University and Florida A&M University and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Davis brings more than 25 years of corporate experience in the real estate title industry. Holding specialized and leadership roles across several Fortune 500 companies, he built deep expertise in title examination, risk analysis, property records management, and real estate research.

Beyond the private sector, Davis has dedicated his career to youth mentorship and economic empowerment. He worked extensively with at-risk youth through the Private Industry Council of Seminole County to expand their educational and career readiness, and later guided aspiring entrepreneurs toward sustainable growth at the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center.

Davis's leadership philosophy was shaped early by family and formative mentors. He began working at age 15 under entrepreneur James Gilchrist, learning the value of discipline and business ownership, and drew lasting inspiration from his high school basketball coach, Greg Robinson. Equally influential was his father, James L. Davis, Sr.—a businessman, author, activist, and the first recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship at Florida A&M University.

Raised in a family deeply rooted in the struggle for social justice, Davis developed an enduring respect for the sacrifices that transformed America, strengthened by personal encounters with iconic figures including Muhammad Ali, Dr. Joseph Lowery, Ambassador Andrew Young, Coretta Scott King, and members of the King family. Today, he continues to honor that history by equipping emerging leaders to uphold Reverend C.K. Steele's principles of justice, equality, and human dignity.

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