

**Contact Information:**

College Insider, Inc.  
Natalie Rivers  
(781) 414-1698  
natalie\_rivers@collegeinsider.com

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## **FINALISTS FOR 2024-25 BEN JOBE AWARD**

*The top minority head coaches in college basketball*

BOSTON, MA -- CollegeInsider.com has announced the finalists for the 2024-25 Ben Jobe award. The award is presented annually to the top minority head coach in division I college basketball.

The Ben Jobe Award is named in honor of one of the most iconic coaches in the history of basketball at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He is best known as the head coach of Southern University, a position he held for 12 seasons. He was also head coach at Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Talladega, Tuskegee, and South Carolina State.

His record at Southern was 209-141 and included four NCAA Tournament appearances. He also coached the Jaguars to one NIT appearance, five SIAC championships, 11 SWAC titles and two NAIA Tournament Championships. Perhaps his most memorable moment as a coach was leading No. 15 seed Southern to a 93-78 win over No. 2 Georgia Tech in the first round of the 1993 NCAA Tournament. It stands as one of the great upsets in the history of the event.

Coach Jobe passed away on March 10, 2017.

The recipient of the annual award is determined by a 10-member voting committee, which consists of current and former head coaches, as well as two senior staff members of collegeinsider.com.

The 2025 award will be announced in San Antonio, TX, site of the men's Division I Basketball Championship.

#### **BEN JOBE AWARD FINALISTS**

Alvin Brooks	Lamar
Penny Collins	Tennessee State
Chris Crutchfield	Omaha
Travis DeCuire	Montana
Dennis Gates	Missouri
Penny Hardaway	Memphis
Cornelius Jackson	Marshall
Kevin Johnson	Southern
James Jones	Yale
Mike Jones	UNCG
Robert Jones	Norfolk State
Chris Markwood	Maine
Erik Martin	South Carolina State
Ritchie McKay	Liberty
Antoine Pettway	Kennesaw State
Richie Riley	South Alabama
Daniyal Robinson	Cleveland State
Kelvin Sampson	Houston
Patrick Sellers	Central Connecticut State
Takayo Siddle	UNCW
Duane Simpkins	American
Tony Skinn	George Mason
Shaka Smart	Marquette
Damon Stoudamire	Georgia Tech
Drew Valentine	Loyola Chicago

#### **PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS**

Donte' Jackson, Grambling (2024); Jerry Stackhouse, Vanderbilt (2023); Kelvin Sampson, Houston (2022); Leonard Hamilton, Florida State (2021); Damon Stoudamire, Pacific (2020); James Jones, Yale (2019); Donte' Jackson, Grambling (2018); Jamion Christian, Mount St. Mary's (2017); Dana Ford, Tennessee State (2016); Bobby Collins, UMES (2015); Willis Wilson, Texas A&M Corpus Christi (2016); Kevin Ollie, Connecticut (2015); Sean Woods, Mississippi Valley State (2014); Cuonzo Martin, Missouri State (2013); Ed Cooley, Fairfield (2012).

#### **ABOUT COLLEGEINSIDER.COM**

Established in 1996, CollegeInsider.com has been at the forefront of promoting college basketball online. In the July 27, 1998, issue of ESPN the Magazine, College Insider was ranked No. 24 on the magazine's list of *99 Things to do Before you Die*. College Insider created the Mid-Major Top 25<sup>®</sup>, the measuring stick for men's and women's programs outside of the proverbial power leagues, and has 18 national awards presented annually, including the Lute Olson Award, Lou Henson Award, and the John McLendon Award. The CollegeInsider.com All-Access series has been nominated for 5 Emmy Awards and won 2013 Emmy, for its' feature on New York City Basketball (Iona, LIU-Brooklyn and Manhattan). CI also created *This Game No Secret*, which debuted during the 2016 CIT and now has become an annual event, which has included programs like Duke, Houston, Miami, Ohio State, Ole Miss, Texas and Virginia.

