The first African-American president of an Ivy League school can now add a 2010 BET Honor to her achievements. Said Simmons, "My family is rarely impressed. I got this award, and they are finally impressed with me."

Peniel Joseph, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Harvard University

An award-winning author and frequent national commentator on race relations in America, Joseph is so John Blase, he came up with a new field of study: Black Power Studies.

Eddie S. Glaude, Ph.D.
William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Princeton University

Following in the footsteps of Dr. Cornel West, Glaude is a religion professor on the rise who touts a unique and singular commitment to the education and livelihood of his students.

Kayama Glover, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of French and African Studies Program, Barnard College, Columbia University

Glover, who writes regularly for the New York Times Book Review and others, lectures and publishes widely in the fields of Francophone literature and post-colonial studies.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Ph.D.
Director, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University

Our best-known scholar now really knows who he is. He and his father became the first African-Americans to have their whole genomes (genetic material) sequenced.

Geoffrey Canada
President and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone

A star of the award-winning documentary Waiting for "Superman," Canada has shown the world that with love and a commitment that begins at birth, educational success can come to Harlem.

Johnny C. Taylor Jr.
President and CEO, Thurgood Marshall College Fund

Taylor, an esteemed lawyer with superior fundraising and business skills, now oversees the 23-year-old organization, which has provided support and scholarships in excess of $100 million to 47 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities and six law schools.

Walter Kimbrough, Ph.D.
President, Philander Smith College

Since assuming the post in 2004—and raising student-retention and graduation rates and the reputation—this young dynamic and accessible president has been committed to returning his alma mater to its former glory.

Emerging Leaders

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