



C.J. BLAND

Accomplished Leader, Speaker, Coach & Consultant

C.J. Bland is a proud native of New Orleans, LA. He currently resides in metro Atlanta, GA with his lovely, brilliant, and supportive wife and their two amazing young children. After abandonment by their father when he was age 5, Bland and his 5 siblings were reared in a public housing project by their loving, devoted, and sacrificial mother of unwavering faith and strength. When Bland was age 16, his 21 yo eldest brother's life was tragically and senselessly ended by a racially motivated, random drive-by hate crime.

Inspired by his mother and motivated by his surroundings, Bland overcame poverty and endured personal tragedies to earn **three** college degrees: B.S. in Physics (Dillard University), B.S. in Electrical Engineering (Southern University) & M.B.A. in Management (Univ. of Houston at Clear Lake). Bland also earned dozens of college credits (mostly in engineering) from **four** universities: Loyola (LA), LSU, IIT & UIC.

Upon graduating from engineering school, Bland entered and rapidly climbed the corporate ladder while holding various engineering, consulting, management or director-level roles at AT&T, Bell Labs (Lucent Technologies), Johnson Controls, NASA, NCR, Newport News Shipbuilding, and SBC Telecom.

After graduating from business school with his M.B.A., Bland launched his own consulting firm. A few years later it led to the formation of **Minority Professional Network, Inc. (MPN)**. Under Bland's innovative, visionary, and savvy leadership as co-founder, CEO, and chief technologist, MPN evolved into a **nationally** known and respected integrated solutions provider. Since 2001, MPN has delivered proven recruitment advertising (mpnDiversityJobs.com), coaching (career, interview, executive, business), placement, staffing & search (mpnDiversityRecruiters.com); or DEI consulting, events, training & speaking services to **3,000+** employers, partners and clients from **46 U.S. states** and **other countries**.

MPN's clients and partners have included ADP, AT&T, BP, CIA, City of Portland, FBI, FDIC, Gates Foundation, GP, Harvard, HP, JFK Center, JWT, PwC, Southern Co., Stanford, Travelers, United Way, UPS, USDA, U.S. Dept. of State, U.S. SEC, Walmart, Yale, Zillow and **thousands of other** corporations, colleges & universities, nonprofits, advertising agencies, recruitment/staffing agencies, and (federal, state, local) government agencies. MPN is also a nationally certified minority business enterprise (MBE) by NMSDC.

With a passion and heart for service, mentoring, and giving back, Bland has extensive nonprofit, civic, volunteerism, and community service involvement. Some of his honors, awards or affiliations have included: APS Adopt-a-Student advisory board, ARC Board of Directors (**elected, 3-terms**), CAU Adjunct Professor of Leadership & Professional Development (LPD), INROADS facilitator of the year, NMBAA – Atlanta Chapter President (**elected**), UNCF-Atlanta fund development, and Who's Who in Black Atlanta.

A well-rounded, engaging, compassionate, motivational/inspirational speaker & servant leader, Bland's speaking or training engagements or media interviews have included: 11alive TV, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC), American Express, AT&T, BET.com, Black Collegian, Boys & Girls Club, Brookhaven Rotary Club, CAU, CNN, DeVry, Dillard Univ., Ebony Man, El Observador, Emory Univ, GA DOL, GSU, Hispanic PR, MBNUA, NAAHR, NMBAA, North Highland, NSBE, NSN, Philadelphia Tribune, PMI, Rolling Out, SMX Next (by Microsoft), U.S. Department of State, VoyageATL, Walmart, and many others.