



James Bennett

As Mid-South Area Executive for First Citizens Bank, James A. Bennett leads branch, business and commercial banking teams to provide outstanding client service. Based in Columbia, South Carolina, he is responsible for portions of South Carolina and Georgia, comprised of over \$2 billion in deposits and \$1 billion in loans.

·Bennett was born in Washington, D.C., and moved to Cheraw, South Carolina., shortly thereafter. He has been a South Carolina resident for more than 50 years.

·Board member, Dominion Energy; board member, Prisma Health; Chair, University of South Carolina Educational Foundation; Chair, Midlands Business Leadership Group; former Chairman, South Carolina Bankers Association; former Chairman, Claflin University Board of Trustees.

·Bennett was the first African-American to receive the Outstanding Young Banker Award from the South Carolina Bankers Association (1998). Other awards include: Outstanding Young Business Leader by the South Carolina Jaycees (1993); John H. Whitman Award by the Columbia Urban League (1998); Board Member of the Year award from Big Brothers and Sisters; Whitney M. Young Service Award by the Boy Scouts of America (2000); African-American Achievement Award from the March of Dimes (2006); African-American Male Image Award from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (2008); AT&T African American Calendar (2008); National TRIO Achievers Award (2010); University of South Carolina Black Alumni Award Recipient (2012); Thaddeus Bythewood Award, Claflin University (2018); United Way of the Midlands Humanitarian of the Year (2022)

Bennett has been actively involved in the Columbia Urban League for more than 25 years and served as league chairman for two terms.