

DR. MORDECAI IAN BROWNLEE

SCHOLAR | STRATEGIST | SPEAKER

Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee proudly serves as the sixth President of the Community College of Aurora in Colorado. In addition, Dr. Mordecai publishes frequently, including serving as a columnist for EdSurge.

He has been featured in a number of local, state, and national publications. He speaks regularly as a national and international keynote.

Dr. Mordecai was named 40 Under 40 by the prestigious Denver Business Journal, Community Leader of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and recipient of the Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr. LMI Alumni Award. Recently, Dr. Mordecai was featured as a "champion" of the U.S. Department of Education Unlocking Career Success Initiative.

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MEET DR. MORDECAI

Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee is an inclusive educator who proudly serves as the sixth president of the Community College of Aurora in Colorado. President Brownlee provides the institution with impressive leadership experience in advancing equitable student success, improving student advocacy and support services, and expanding academic pathways.

Within the first two years of his presidency, Dr. Mordecai has already brought about significant change and improved the student success agenda at CCA. These successes include CCA embarking upon its first capital project in 24 years, record-breaking capital and scholarship fundraising, the hiring of CCA's largest and most diverse faculty ranks in the college's history, improved student completions by more than 20%, the third largest enrollment in college history, and CCA becoming the first Achieving the Dream institution in the State of Colorado.

Over the course of Dr. Brownlee's career thus far, he has served in key roles of several multi-million-dollar capital construction projects supporting academic instruction, student support services, and collegiate sports programs to the tune of over \$215 million. He is a transformative leader who embraces institutional advancement by cultivating relationships, opportunities, and resources to benefit the college and encouraging internal and external giving through example.

Dr. Brownlee earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and a Specialization in Higher Education at Lamar University (Beaumont, Texas) where he was awarded the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award for his research regarding legislative impacts on community colleges in Texas.

Dr. Brownlee is a graduate of the Leadership & Mentorship Institute sponsored by the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges, John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute of the American Association for Community Colleges, and Penn State University Academic Leadership Academy.

In 2020, Dr. Brownlee was featured by EdTech Magazine as one of the 30 most interesting voices in higher education who are shaping the conversation around technology and education. In 2022, Mordecai was featured by Diverse Issues in Higher Education Magazine as a "New School" leader representing the next generation of college presidents. In 2023, he was inducted into the Denver Business Journal's 40 under 40 Class of 2023, and named Community Leader of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. He became only the third recipient of the Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr. LMI Alumni Award.

As for his local, state, and national engagements, Dr. Mordecai serves as a Trust Member of Jobs For The Future, Inc. (JFF), Member of the Global Community College Leadership Network, Board Member of American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE), Executive Council Member for WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), Member of the Presidents' Round Table, Board Member for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board Member of the Aurora Economic Development Council, Board Member for the Aurora Mental Health Center, and Board Member of the Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Development Council.

He is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Aurora, Colorado.

Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee resides in Aurora, Colorado, with his wife of 17 years, Daphne, their son, Mordecai Jr., and their daughter, Lauren Machele.

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TESTIMONIALS



"Dr. Mordecai has energized the CCA community around a shared goal of equitable student success. He is a persuasive and energetic communicator who understands how to motivate, educate, and equip students with the skills and confidence necessary for success in a rapidly changing economy. His ideas and energy have sparked change far beyond CCA into all 13 system colleges that benefitted from his leadership."

Joe Garcia
Chancellor of Colorado Community College System
Former Lieutenant of the State of Colorado



"Dr. Brownlee is an extraordinary leader. He is compassionate and visionary while able to advance complex solutions aimed at removing barriers for all students. He is the consummate student always seeking ways to learn and expand his knowledge while lifting others to do the same. He is a top-notch speaker and educator who truly connects to the mission of education and embodies servant leadership."

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus
President and CEO
American Association of Community Colleges



"Dr. Mordecai Brownlee is an exceptional higher education leader whose dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to student success is truly remarkable. His passion for fostering academic growth and creating transformative learning experience is a testament to his outstanding contributions in the field."

Dr. Lisa Alcorta
Senior Vice President of Programs and Operations
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)



"Dr. Brownlee is a visionary leader who brings compassion and inspiration to his role as president of the Community College of Aurora. He is a "students-first" president who has a passion for helping all students succeed and thrive in college and beyond. He is the president we need today with a laser focus on preparing his students for a successful career."

Dr. Kevin Kruger
President and CEO
NASPA



"Dr. Mordecai Brownlee's leadership as the President of the Community College of Aurora is nothing short of extraordinary. His contributions to education showcase a visionary commitment to shaping the future of higher learning and equipping a "tomorrow-ready" workforce with the skills needed for individuals to find sustainable career pathways and thrive."

Debbie Brown
President
Colorado Business Roundtable



"Dr. Brownlee is a leader in the discussion regarding The Paradigm Shift for Higher Education and its imminent focus on workforce as a major solution. He helps us understand the impact on our educational ecosystem. He demonstrates that without continuous adaptation and thinking smarter, quicker, and more innovatively, an effective community college will not achieve its goals."

Rufus Glasper, Ph.D.
President and CEO
League for Innovation in the Community College



"Dr. Brownlee is a visionary leader whose commitment to educational innovation plays a vital role in preparing today's students for the dynamic challenges of the jobs of tomorrow. A reflective thought leader and an engaging speaker, he contributes depth and knowledge to every conversation he's part of."

Erika Liodice
Executive Director
Alliance for Innovation & Transformation (AFIT)



"Dr. Mordecai Brownlee is the future in leading the understanding of the intersection between higher education, business, and industry. He connects the dots of community development, workforce development, and a work-ready graduate. He has a keen sense of the future landscape of higher education and possesses the skill set to be a transformation leader in that space."

Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr.
President
Silver & Associates



"Dr. Brownlee is the perfect choice to be a champion for Unlocking Career Success. He is a compelling communicator who understands and touts the Unlocking Career Success vision at home and as a leader in his powerful national networks. And he shows the courage and conviction needed to make the tough decisions and manage the change required to bring the vision to fruition."

Dr. Joel Vargas
Vice President
Jobs for the Future (JFF)



"Dr. Brownlee is a higher education visionary who brings a broad perspective to his work in preparing students for success in the workforce. He is an engaging, student-focused, and people-centered leader who inspires everyone who interacts with him."

Dr. Barbara J. Johnson
Director of Leadership and Mentoring Institute (LMI)
Executive Vice President at Talladega College

Dr. Mordecai has been a keynote and panelist for several events, including large-scale conferences, special events, commencements, workshops, and virtual meetings.

KEYNOTE SPEAKING TOPICS AVAILABLE:

- The Future of Higher Education
- Organizational Mission Advancement
- Strategic Planning
- Equitable Student Success
- Personal Brand Development and Advancement
- First-Generation Student Success
- Transfer Pathways
- Educational Technology
- Campus/Corporate Culture and Teambuilding
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Inspiration & Motivation
- Leadership and Career Advancement
- Personal Development and Goal-Setting
- Embracing Disruption and Change Management
- Overcoming Adversity



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