



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

‘STORMZY’ CELEBRATES WINNERS OF 2025 BLACK TALENT AWARDS: CELEBRATING UK BLACK EXCELLENCE AND 'IMPACT'

The Evenfields Black Talent Awards 2025 crowned its winners in a vibrant gala at the ICC Birmingham last night, shining a spotlight on outstanding Black professionals from across the UK.



Marking the fourth annual celebration of Black excellence, the event featured 16 award categories – from Rising Star to Senior Leader – all aligning with this year’s theme of “Impact,” which highlights those driving real change in their fields and communities.

More than just an awards ceremony, the Black Talent Awards (BTA) serves as the nation’s only UK-wide platform exclusively dedicated to recognising Black professional talent.

Founded in 2022 by **Denise Myers**, CEO of Evenfields, the BTAs were born out of a need to showcase real talent and create lasting, systemic change in workplaces across the UK.

“Purpose-driven and community-rooted rather than performative” is how the BTAs define their mission. By providing **relatable role models** and **career-advancing visibility**, the awards aim to open doors for Black professionals beyond the night itself. Major partners that “*walk the talk*” on diversity – including Merlin Entertainments,



Lloyds Banking Group, Birmingham City University, EDF, Barclays, Jaguar Land Rover, and JCDcaux – powered this year’s event, underscoring a broad corporate commitment to advancing Black talent.

The 2025 ceremony, which was hosted by the

inimitable **comedian, Aurie Styla and TV’s Marverine Cole**, delivered a night of memorable moments. Guests were treated to a **Caribbean-inspired menu** - a first for the ICC - curated by chef-to-the-stars, **Mellow of Mellow’s Restaurant**, which blended flavour with narrative in a tribute to cultural heritage.

There was even a surprise appearance by the legendary musical artist, **‘Stormzy’** – albeit as a waxwork figure courtesy of sponsors, Merlin.

Throughout the night, emotional reactions reverberated through the hall. Several winners received standing ovations, echoing last year’s scene when a Trailblazer honouree’s moving speech left not a dry eye in the house. Attendees and supporters lit up social media with celebratory posts, as the event’s joyful energy spilled beyond the ICC and into the wider community.

One of the defining features of the Black Talent Awards is its commitment to nurturing future talent. This year, the judging process was **rigorous and inclusive**, with over **300 nominations** submitted and 238 completed entries evaluated. An independent panel of 31 industry judges – spanning sectors from law and tech to education and media – had the challenging task of selecting finalists and winners. Notably, **10 youth judges** were embedded within the judging panels as part of a mentorship initiative, giving young aspiring professionals a voice in the process and invaluable experience alongside seasoned leaders. These youth judges participated in interviews and deliberations, gaining a “front-row education” in excellence and event management. Their involvement underscores the BTA’s dedication to inspiring the next generation and ensuring the legacy of Black excellence continues.

Denise Myers, the awards’ founder, reflected on the significance of the night and the calibre of talent showcased: *“This is not about optics or ticking boxes – it’s about real impact. Tonight we created a stage where real people with real stories could be*



celebrated, supported, and seen. These moments matter. They remind us what Black excellence looks like, and what's possible when it's truly valued."

Myers praised all the winners and finalists, noting that each one *"embodies the very essence of 'Impact' by not only excelling in their own careers but also driving positive change in their industries and communities."* She added that seeing such a diverse range of role models, from young innovators to transformational leaders, fulfilled the vision that sparked the BTAs – *"to shine a light on extraordinary Black professionals who too often go unseen."*

Tim Campbell MBE, the first winner of BBC's *The Apprentice* and returning BTA Ambassador for the second year, brought his trademark energy to the role. He congratulated the winners and emphasised why platforms like this are vital: *"Visibility changes perceptions, recognition changes careers, and opportunity changes lives. When we celebrate trailblazing Black professionals, we're not just giving applause – we're fuelling momentum and inspiring others."*

Campbell added that by amplifying these success stories, the Awards are helping inspire the next generation and *"shift the way people think about UK talent."* As an ambassador, he said his mission is to ensure the honourees' stories travel far and wide, multiplying the Awards' impact.

Also in attendance were prominent business and community leaders who echoed the celebratory spirit. Representatives from sponsoring organisations like **Merlin Entertainments, Birmingham City University** and **Lloyds Banking Group** hailed the initiative as a "launchpad" for Black professionals, aligning with their own inclusion goals.

Many noted that the **Evenfields Black Talent Awards** have quickly become a cornerstone event for diversity in the UK, providing not just recognition but also networking, mentorship, and development opportunities for Black talent. The VIP guests applauded the winners, calling them role models whose achievements show *"how challenges can be overcome with determination and self-belief."*

2025 Black Talent Awards – Winners List

The full list of **2025 Black Talent Awards** winners (and Highly Commended where applicable) in each category is as follows:

- **Charity & Change Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Daniel Sukula
- **Entrepreneur of the Year** (sponsored by JCDecaux) – **Winner:** Kameese Davis



- **Facilities & Supply Chain Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Patricia Mensah; *Highly Commended:* Ramona Williams
- **Financial Services Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Khalia Ismain
- **Marketing, Media & Creative Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Jayd Williams
- **People & Culture Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Mandisa Gordon
- **Professional Services Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Dr. Tunde Okewale OBE
- **Public Sector & Services Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Jahnine Davis; *Highly Commended:* Adeshola Akanji
- **Retail & Leisure Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Ramona Williams
- **Rising Star of the Year** (sponsored by Merlin Entertainments) – **Winner:** Aaron Michael Dorsett
- **Senior Leader of the Year** (sponsored by Lloyds Banking Group) – **Winner:** Shauna Roper
- **STEM Employee of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Donna Otchere; *Highly Commended:* Mandisa Gordon
- **Employee Resource Group (ERG) of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Black Professionals Network and Friends (BPNet)
- **Excellence in Education** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Black Talent & Leadership in STEM; *Highly Commended:* Dr. Myrtle Emmanuel
- **Small Business of the Year** (sponsored by Birmingham City University) – **Winner:** Caribbean & African Health Network; *Highly Commended:* Legacy Centre of Excellence
- **Social Impact Organisation of the Year** (sponsored by Evenfields Careers) – **Winner:** Be The Change Youth Project CIC

Each winner exemplifies the ethos of the BTAs – not only achieving personal and professional excellence, but also uplifting others and shaping a more inclusive future. As the final award was handed out, the message was clear: **Black excellence is being showcased, celebrated, and developed like never before**, and the impact will resonate far beyond this one night.



For more information on the Black Talent Awards, visit blacktalentawards.co.uk

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For more information about the event, or interview requests, please contact Kevin Urquhart at FU Media on 077137 40272 or kevin@fu-media.co.uk

Additional high res images of the event and winners can be found [HERE](#)

EDITORS' NOTES

The Black Talent Awards is an Evenfields event.

Evenfields Careers is a connector of Black talent and inclusive employers in the UK. Since 2019, they have been a grassroots organisation from the West Midlands using diversity recruitment and communications to help job seekers from diverse communities, particularly Black and ethnic minorities. Their message is “We see you!” and that is exactly what they do - they recognise the richness of Black talent and strive to celebrate and catapult it as much as possible.

