

Rashaun L. Williams '01

Venture Capitalist, Educator, and Atlanta Falcons Limited Partner

Bennie Trailblazer Award

Rashaun L. Williams '01 is a successful venture capitalist, veteran guest Shark on the TV show "Shark Tank," and Atlanta Falcons limited partner today. But Williams grew up on the south side of Chicago, knowing what it was like to sometimes live in a home with no heat or electricity in winter.

"We grew up very poor in a neighborhood where you're watching everybody living the American dream from afar," he said in a 2024 interview with ABC7-TV in Chicago. "But that inspired me to learn about money and what I can do to stop this from happening to my family and my community."

Williams graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics from Morehouse College in 2001. He had a passion for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, so in 2001, he also founded the Kemet Institute, a nonprofit focused on providing free financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and life skills classes to under-served communities and schools. "We have helped thousands of students, adults, athletes, and entertainers build and conserve wealth," Williams said. "Our financial literacy workshops are available to the general public and are customized to serve children, teens, adults, and senior citizens."

Over the last 20 years, Williams has been primarily responsible for bringing capital to emerging, diverse, and alternative markets while working at Wall Street firms such as The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Wachovia Securities, and Deutsche Bank. In 2007, he founded Dixsville Partners, a private equity fund investing in infrastructure development and mineral companies in West Africa.

In 2012, Williams became the founder and chairman of the Value Investment Group, a family office specializing in influencer-backed private equity, venture capital, and real estate investments. He is also co-founder of the venture capital fund Queensbridge Venture Partners, a general partner in the MVP All-Star Fund, and an early investor in companies such as Lyft Inc., Dropbox Inc., and PillPack Inc. Williams also founded and owns Antimatter Business Partners, which teaches athletes and entertainers how to operate their own private equity family offices.

Williams has appeared as a guest shark on the TV show "Shark Tank," and in May 2024, became a limited partner in the Atlanta Falcons ownership group. Falcons owner Arthur Blank called Williams "an impressive leader who had made an impact in a variety of enterprises while making a difference in the world."

"As an alumnus of Morehouse College now raising a family in Atlanta, I could not be more excited to invest in the Falcons," said Williams. "I believe in the immense potential of this team and this city to Rise Up to the greatest heights, and I look forward to supporting the Falcons and the City of Atlanta for many successful seasons to come."

Williams also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Opera, the Board of Trustees for Fisk University, and Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
