

ALICE K. HOUSTON

**Founder & Owner
HJI Supply Chain Solutions**

Alice K. Houston was educated in the Louisville, Kentucky public schools and received her high school diploma in 1964. She graduated “Cum Laude” from Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio in 1968; and received a Danforth Foundation Fellowship in Latin American History to attend graduate school at Vanderbilt University. She attended Vanderbilt from 1968-69. She left Vanderbilt in 1969 to marry Wade Houston who was pursuing a career in professional sports. The two traveled and lived in France where her husband, Wade, played and coached basketball in Strasbourg, France.

Upon returning to the United States, Alice began a long and successful association and career at the University of Louisville. While earning a M.Ed. in College Student Personnel Services, she served as Assistant and subsequently Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Louisville. She left the University of Louisville in March 1988 to join a series of family businesses which collectively became one of the largest minority owned companies in the United States, and the largest minority owned transportation company in North America during the 1990’s.

In July 2001, Alice divested of her interests to concentrate her attention to developing HJI Supply Chain Solutions and became President and CEO in January, 2005. During the ensuing years, HJI became a preferred supplier of material fulfillment, sequencing, assembling, and logistic services. In 2011 HJI was nominated by Ford Motor Company and subsequently won the TSMSDC “Supplier of the Year Award”, and was honored in 2018 and 2019 by Yangfeng Global Automotive Interiors with their Supplier Diversity Excellence Award. In August, 2020, Alice resigned as CEO, successfully completing a six year succession plan aimed to transition ownership to the family’s 2nd generation.

Aside from her business interests, Alice enjoys working in the community. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Urban League and the 8th District of the Federal Reserve, a past Chair of Greater Louisville, Inc., was honored as Louisvillian of the Year in 2008, named a Daughter of Greatness by the Muhammad Ali Center in 2017, received in 2020 the Greater Louisville’s Inc.’s Gold Cup Award, the Louisville Business First Legacy Leader Award, and was the University of Louisville’s Alumna of the Year. In 2021, she and her husband were honored with the Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award and Leadership KY’s Flame of Excellence Award, and in 2022 Alice was the recipient of the inaugural NAWBO KY Legacy Award, the WBENC/ORV Trailblazer Award, was honored by Leadership Louisville by having a program named in her honor, the Alice Houston Women’s Leadership Program, and received the Muhammad Ali Kentucky Humanitarian Award. In February, 2023, she and her husband were featured in a KET/PBS documentary – “The Alice and Wade Houston Story”. In February, 2024, she and her husband were honored by the Louisville Forum with their distinguished Fleur-de-Lis Award which is awarded to a local citizen who has made significant contributions to the community. She currently serves on the following boards: Impetus for a Better Louisville (past-Chair), 15K Degree Initiative, Evolve 502, Simmons College of Kentucky, KET, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Commonwealth Seed Capital. In 2002, she and her husband Wade were awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Spalding University. Both have been recognized with numerous other awards and recognitions.

Finally, Alice has been an active fundraiser for the United Negro College Fund, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Louisville Urban League, and other organizations. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, LINKS, Inc., Girl Friends, Inc., and a Trustee at Green Castle Baptist Church. Of all her activities, however, she is most proud of being married to Wade Houston, and being the mother of Allan, a member of the Management Staff of the New York Knicks; Lynn a graduate of Georgia Tech University who has assumed the role of CEO in the family business; Natalie who is a graduate of the University of Louisville’s School of Medicine and a practicing cosmetic dermatologist, and “Mema” to her sixteen grandchildren: Remie, Allan III, Brayden, Gabby, Rowan, Ella, Colin, Jade, Ava, Jodi, Kylie, Truth, Aaron, Asher, Channing, and Hazel.