



The Black Alumni Chapter Distinguished Alumni Award

Chris Preston
BS Management '96

Chris Preston, BS Management '96, chief strategic partnerships officer for BlueSKY Collaborative Partners, brings more than 24 years of partnership experience through his time spent with the United Way network. Currently, he works with clients in interim chief development officer roles and engages in revenue and organizational strategy plans. He was most recently the chief development officer for United Way of Metro Chicago where Preston led fundraising and strategy efforts for a \$45 million annual campaign. Prior to that role, Preston led the corporate relations team for United Way Worldwide. The team's purview included the Global Corporate Leadership program, United Way's flagship corporate partner and recognition program. The program consists of 94 corporate partners that raised a combined total of more than \$900 million for United Ways in communities around the globe, providing support to local United Ways in their overall fundraising efforts as part of the \$4.7 billion United Way network. The corporate relations team's purview also included working with the United Way network to support and amplify other national and global corporate partnerships, including with the National Football League.



Preston has also served two other local United Ways. He was the senior vice president, strategic and regional management at United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, and he also served as vice president, resource development, at United Way of the National Capital Area in Washington, D.C. In that role he led the development team in managing a \$33 million annual fundraising effort.

Preston has continued to be a strong supporter of his alma mater. He is a past president of the George Mason University Alumni Association, was named the university's 2021 Alumnus of the Year, and was the 2022 George Mason School of Business Alumni Service Awardee. He currently serves on the George Mason University Foundation Board of Trustees, George Mason Athletics Advisory Board (Patriot Club), as chair of the Green Machine Ensemble Advisory Council (George Mason Band) and as a member of the George Mason Honors College Advisory Council. Beyond his volunteerism at George Mason, Preston serves as board member for the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium.