

ERACISM



2024 - 25
**HBCU
LEGENDS**
AWARDS



MEDIA PARTNER



**COLLEGE
INSIDER**
.COM

March 1, 2025

BOSTON, MA — The awards are named after legendary HBCU players and will highlight the top players in all levels of college basketball. The objective is to recognize the top student athletes in college basketball, while bringing long overdue attention to some of the best players to ever play the game. These players are the top statistical leaders for all levels of college basketball.

**AAMARI
SMITH**
WHITTIER

28.1
POINTS PER
GAME 2024-25

**TRAVIS GRANT
AWARD**
2025

Whittier College's **Aamari Smith** is the recipient of the 2025 Travis Grant award, presented annually to the player with the highest point per-game average in all divisions of college ball.

The 6-foot-3 senior put up big numbers this season. The Decatur, GA native scored 30 or more on 14 occasions. He set a new career high with 37 against Willamette on Nov. 22 and matched it on Dec. 4 against Occidental. He scored in double figures in every game and averaged 28.1 points per contest.

A photograph of Jarnel Rancy, a basketball player for Adelphi, wearing a dark blue jersey with yellow accents and the number 14. He is holding an orange basketball with both hands.

JARNEL RANCY

ADELPHI

129
TOTAL BLOCKS
2024-25

A circular logo featuring a portrait of Zelmo Beaty. Below the portrait, it reads "ZELMO BEATY AWARD" and "2025".

ZELMO BEATY
AWARD
2025

Adelphi's **Jarnel Rancy** is the recipient of the 2025 Zelmo Beaty award, presented annually to the player with the most total blocked shots in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-8 senior was a model of consistency, averaging at least one block in all but two games this season. The Middle Island, NY native had 5 or more blocks in 13 games and had a career-high 8 on Dec. 4 at Franklin & Pierce. Just over a month later he matched that total on Jan. 8 against American International. He finished with 129 blocks on the season.

A photograph of Hayden Gray, a basketball player for UC San Diego, wearing a white jersey with yellow accents and the number 3. He is holding an orange basketball with both hands.

HAYDEN GRAY

UC SAN DIEGO

110
TOTAL STEALS
2024-25

A circular logo featuring a portrait of Marques Haynes. Below the portrait, it reads "MARQUES HAYNES AWARD" and "2025".

MARQUES HAYNES
AWARD
2025

UC San Diego's **Hayden Gray** is the recipient of the 2025 Marques Haynes award, presented annually to the player with the most total steals in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-4 senior had at least one steal in every game and averaged 3.1 steals per contest on the season. The San Diego native had 4 or more steals in 16 games. He set a career-high with 7 steals on Dec. 21 against crosstown rival San Diego and matched that number on Feb. 6 against UC Riverside.



JAMAL GIBSON

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AT NEW ORLEANS

16.4
REBOUNDS PER
GAME 2024-25



WILLIS REED
AWARD
2025

Southern University at New Orleans' **Jamal Gibson** is the recipient of the 2025 Willis Reed award, presented annually to the player with the highest rebound per-game average in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-8 sophomore pulled down 10 or more rebounds in every game this season. He grabbed 20 or more rebounds in 11 games, including a ridiculous 27 boards against Stillman on Dec. 16. The New Orleans native also tallied 23 rebounds on three occasions.



RYAN NEMBHARD

GONZAGA

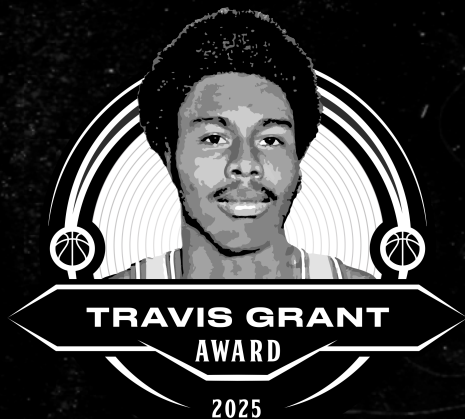
9.8
ASSISTS PER
GAME 2024-25



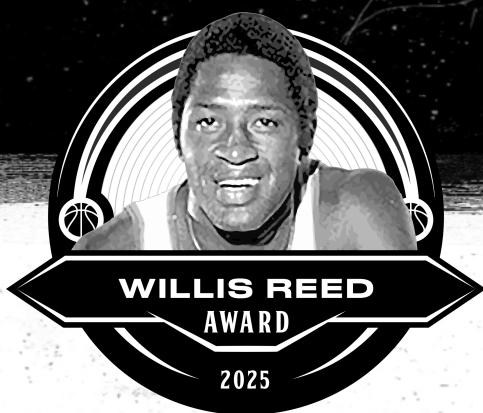
CLEO HILL
AWARD
2025

Gonzaga's **Ryan Nembhard** is the recipient of the 2025 Cleo Hill award, presented annually to the player with the highest assist per-game average in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot senior had 19 double-digit assist games, including 11 assists his final game of the season against National runner-up, Houston in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Ontario Canada native set a new career-best with 16 assists in the West Coast Conference semifinals against San Francisco.



THE HBCU LEGENDS



One of the primary goals of ERACISM is to educate today's fans on the stars of the past and the HBCU Legends Awards, established in 2021-22, will shine a light on players like Kentucky State's Travis Grant who is College Basketball's all-time leading scorer. Thus, the **Travis Grant Award** will annually honor the top scorer in all levels of college basketball. **The Zelmo Beaty Award** will highlight the nation's top shot blocker, the **Marques Haynes Award** will recognize the leader in steals, the **Cleo Hill Award** will highlight college basketball's leader in assists, and the **Willis Reed Award** will be presented annually to the top rebounder in college basketball.

The top 5 for each award will be updated throughout the season and posted weekly so fans can follow along with the statistical leaders for all five awards.

The awards will include eligible players from Division I, Division II, Division III and NAIA collegiate basketball who play in at least 60% of their team's games. Scoring, rebounds, and assists will be per game averages, while blocks and steals will be cumulative totals.

The awards will be presented at the conclusion of the college basketball season.

ZELMO BEATY AWARD — Nicknamed “Big Z” Zelmo Beaty was a force at both ends of the floor during his career at Prairie View A&M University (1958–1962), averaging 25 points and 20 rebounds per game in four seasons. He was a two-time first team NAIA All-American and led the Panthers to an NAIA National Championship in 1962. The Zelmo Beaty Award will be presented annually to the player with the most blocked shots in college basketball.

TRAVIS GRANT AWARD — Known as the “Machine Gun” Travis Grant was part of three consecutive NAIA National Championships in four seasons at Kentucky State University (1968-72). As a sophomore he set a school single-game record with 75 points and averaged 35.4 per game while shooting a ridiculous 70% from the field. He never shot less than 60 percent in any of his four seasons. As a senior he averaged 39.5 points per game and became the first small college player to win the Lapchick Trophy for College Basketball Player of the Year award. He graduated as the all-time and all-division scoring leader in college basketball history with 4,045 points. The Travis Grant Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game scoring average.

MARQUES HAYNES AWARD — A wizard with the basketball, Marques Haynes had a stellar career at Langston University (1942–1946). During his four seasons, the Lions recorded an incredible 112-3 record, which included a 59-game winning streak. He led Langston in scoring all four years and was a four-time All-Conference selection. In 1946 Haynes and Langston upset the Harlem Globetrotters in an exhibition game. One year later Haynes was part of the famed Globetrotters. The Marques Haynes Award will be presented annually to the player with the most total steals in college basketball.

CLEO HILL AWARD — In four seasons at Winston-Salem Teachers College (1957–1961), which is now known as Winston-Salem State, Cleo Hill averaged an impressive 25.4 per game making him the second-highest scorer in program history. Playing for the legendary Clarence “Big House” Gaines, Hill helped the Rams to consecutive Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association titles in his final two seasons. He was a two-time All-CIAA selection and named first-team NAIA All-American as a senior in 1961. The Cleo Hill Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game assist average.

WILLIS REED AWARD — During his four seasons at Grambling State University (1960–1964), Willis Reed helped the Tigers to three Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and an NAIA National Championship in 1961. Known for his inside presence, the two-time All-American also had a lethal jump shot. In his senior season he averaged 26.6 points and 21.3 rebounds per game. The Willis Reed Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game rebounding average.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

TRAVIS GRANT AWARD		Points Per Game
2023-24	Kai Te Huki, Grinnell	27.1
2022-23	Rayquan Elliott, Panhandle State	30.5
2021-22	Ryan Turell, Yeshiva	27.1

WILLIS REED AWARD		Rebounds Per Game
2023-24	Vincent Miskiewicz, Keiser	15.9
2022-23	Curt Heinz, Maine Maritime	15.4
2021-22	Oscar Tshiebwe, Kentucky	15.1

CLEO HILL AWARD		Assists Per Game
2023-24	Tyler Kolek, Marquette	7.7
2022-23	Yuri Collins, Saint Louis	10.1
2021-22	Mikey Buscetto, Mitchell	8.4

MARQUES HAYNES AWARD		Total Steals
2023-24	DJ Talton Jr., Oklahoma Wesleyan	123
2022-23	Autry Accord, Evangel	111
2021-22	Myles Burns, Loyola New Orleans	152

ZELMO BEATY AWARD		Total Blocks
2023-24	Edward Ngene, Bloomfield	120
2022-23	Jarnel Rancy, Caldwell	131
2022-23	Jamarion Sharp, Western Kentucky	131
2021-22	Walker Kessler, Auburn	155

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kenny Blakeney (Howard) **Jamie Kachmarik** (Former NCAA Coach)

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Jason Crafton (Former NCAA Coach) **Eugene Marshall** (Binghamton)

Joe Dwyer (CollegelInsider.com) **Ryan Odom** (Virginia)

Arthur Hightower (Los Angeles Chargers) **David Patrick** (LSU)

Cleo Hill, Jr. (UMES) **Kelvin Sampson** (Houston)

Donte' Jackson (Alabama A&M) **Gary Stewart** (Stevenson)

James Jones (Yale) **Willis Wilson** (Former NCAA Coach)

Robert Jones (Norfolk State) **Rich Zvosec** (Central Florida)