

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
CLASS OF 2014

Michael Williams is a foster care alumnus, entrepreneur, author, speaker, and social entrepreneur who has transformed personal adversity into a mission to help young people move beyond survival and build lives of purpose, independence, and legacy. After entering Florida's foster care system at age 12 and experiencing more than 40 foster homes, group homes, and placements before aging out of care, Williams chose to define his future by possibility rather than by circumstance.

In 2016, he founded My Jumpstart, LLC, creating experiential learning opportunities that help young adults build confidence, strategy, and resilience as they transition to independence. His advocacy helped shape efforts that affect children and young adults in foster care, and he contributed to developing My JumpVault, a technology platform designed to improve access to critical health and personal records. Today, his work has evolved into SMART DREAMS, an evidence-based model centered on communication, mindset, productivity, housing, wellness, coaching, workforce development, education, and community programs. As the author of *Smart Dreams: A Motivational Handbook to Transform Childhood Trauma into Resilience*, Williams continues to help young people become the CEO of their own lives and build futures rooted in clarity, self-sufficiency, and legacy.