

2026



KEYNOTE
SPEAKER

JARMICHAEL HARRIS

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SPEAKER PROFILE

Jarmichael Harris (He/Him) is an award-winning speaker and advocate known for his powerful keynotes on addiction recovery, equity, and leadership. As Founder and CEO of Engage Recovery, he partners with national organizations to transform systems and empower underserved communities. His leadership has earned him honors such as the Museum of African American Addictions Treatment and Recovery's Rising Star Award, East Carolina University's 40 Under Forty, and Association of Recovery in Higher Education's Collegiate Recovery Staff Member of the Year. A passionate educator, he also serves as Director of Scholastic Recovery for Addiction Professionals of North Carolina and an Adjunct Professor at ECU. Rooted in purpose and driven by justice, Jarmichael finds balance in nature and family life.



SIGNATURE KEYNOTES

Grab a Shovel, Treat the Soil This extended version of Jarmichael's NATCON25 TED-Style Talk explores the challenges faced by people who use drugs (PWUD) and those seeking treatment. The talk examines the lasting impact of the failed War on Drugs and invites us to consider what's possible when we shift our focus, when we "treat the soil." Through holistic care, collaborative action, and courageous leadership, Jarmichael challenges communities to cultivate environments where healing, equity, and better outcomes can truly take root.

The Humanitarian Response to Substance Use Disorders

The language we use has remarkable impacts on how society views mental health and substance use disorders. Whether you are a person in recovery, a family member of a person in recovery, or an ally like me, I believe that when we change our language, we can change our culture. We are Change Agents.

"Recovery" ain't for Everybody: Cultural Barriers to "Recovery" in the Black Community

Standing alongside friend and colleague, Khrecia Holley, CPSS, examining the cultural & systemic barriers that prevent members of the Black Community from entering "recovery" in more traditional fashions. This presentation will also explore alternative methods and highlight multiple pathways of recovery that are more culturally inclusive and responsive to the needs of specific populations.



REAL STORIES

Jarmichael is an exceptional speaker who captivated the audience with his NatCon25 TED Talk—a powerful call to action urging people to confront biases surrounding substance use and focus on systemic change. His ability to challenge perceptions and inspire action makes him a vital voice in the movement toward a more compassionate and equitable approach to recovery. His message urged us to rethink stigma, remove harmful labels, and create space for empathy and understanding.

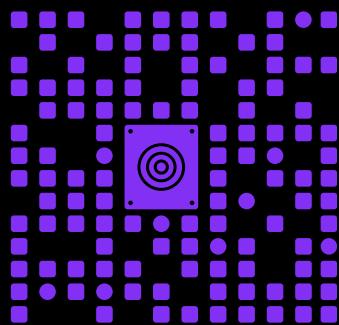
Corinna Kelley, MPH

Speaker / Veteran & Transformation Strategist

Jarmichael showed up with authenticity to our national conference. He encouraged us to reflect humbly on how we view those we serve to ensure that we live up to our core value of empowerment as an organization. His words were inspirational, his delivery was on point, and he shared just what we needed to hear as we continue to strive to make our empowering approach available to and accessible for all.

Pete Rubinas

Executive Director — SMART Recovery, USA



Scan to watch **NATCON25**
TED-Style Talk



REAL IMPACT

I was the chair of the planning committee of a regional recovery conference and J was our keynote speaker. Working with him was great! Leading up to the event, J was very quick to respond and listened to our goals and needs. He brought all his own materials and arrived early to check out the space. Overall, the response to his talk was very positive and he shared a lot of great content.

Katie Bean

Marginalized 2 Empowered Conference

I witnessed this brother in action at the APNC Conference and all I can say is, “Let’s goooooo!” I appreciate them being willing to share on the topic and raising awareness about the disparities in the behavioral health space. We need brothers like J at the table, he has a wealth of knowledge, the passion, and as a young leader, the ENERGY to go hard for the underdogs!

Philip Cooper

Executive Director — Operation Gateway



NATIONAL PRESENCE

Jarmichael Harris is a sought-after keynote speaker and thought leader whose voice has resonated across campuses, conference halls, and Capitol Hill. With over 15 keynote addresses and more than 50 state, regional, and national presentations, his talks bridge lived experience, professional expertise, and systemic insight to spark dialogue and drive change.

Whether opening national conferences, moderating expert panels, or training future leaders, Jarmichael brings a unique blend of heart, humor, and strategy to every stage. His presentations have inspired and informed audiences ranging from student leaders and public health professionals to university presidents and federal policy makers.

