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## **Former OPM Director Kay Coles James Joins J.C. Watts Companies as Senior Partner**

Washington – Kay Coles James, the former Director of the Office of Personnel Management for the United States Government, has joined the J.C. Watts Companies as a Senior Partner. Kay will be leading business activities in health policy initiatives, corporate personnel management, diversity strategy, crisis management and mitigation, employee benefits, workforce training, education, and Federal, State and local relations.

**“Kay was the chief human resource officer for the world’s largest workforce during one of the world’s biggest crisis, on September 11, 2001. Kay’s extensive experience in both business and government is unmatched. Kay Coles James is one of America’s leading talents and one of America’s most admired women. She is also one of my best friends. Kay will be a tremendous asset to our business and to everyone we work with. It is an honor to welcome Kay to the family,” said Watts.**

In 2001, Kay was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), an agency with over 3,600 employees across the country, a budget of \$260 million and trust funds of \$29 billion. Kay was President Bush’s principal advisor in matters of personnel administration for the 1.8 million members of the Federal civil service, and was responsible for financial programs and workforces that larger than many Fortune 500 companies. Former Director James provided stewardship for over \$650 billion in Federal retirement, health, life and long term care insurance assets and oversaw the Federal HSA program - the largest trust fund in the world.

**“J.C. Watts is building a company that is charting a new path for leadership in corporate America. J.C.’s core principles: integrity, leadership, profitability, inclusiveness, and efficiency are exactly what I was looking for in a business partner. This company will allow me to invest in projects of great significance. I am honored to be part of the team,” said James.**

Prior to coming to her service at OPM, Kay served as Secretary of Health and Human Resources for former Virginia Governor George Allen where she was responsible for fourteen state agencies and over 19,000 employees. Before serving in the Allen Administration, Kay was Senior Vice President of the Family Research Council. She served under President George H. W. Bush as Associate Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and as Assistant Secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She was appointed by President Reagan and reappointed by President George H. W. Bush as member of the National Commission on Children.

**About the J.C. Watts Companies.** The J.C. Watts Companies is diverse, multi-industry company based in Washington, D.C. It works with Fortune 500, medium, and small businesses, professional associations, athletic organizations, colleges and universities, health care providers, governments, and non-profits. It is a certified Minority Business Enterprise by the National Minority Supplier Development Council. Its chairman, J.C. Watts, Jr., served eight years in the U.S. Congress as a representative from Oklahoma.

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