

# CONNECT PURPOSE TO

## Experience Leads to Calling

Hackensack Meridian Pascack Valley Medical Center

*In honor of Black History Month, the Ardent Diversity & Inclusion Council featured Hackensack Meridian Pascack Valley Medical Center Assistant Administrator James Powell and his connection to Purpose.*

"My purpose is and has always been helping others," says James Powell when sharing his why for choosing a career in healthcare. His deeply rooted desire to help others comes from his own healthcare journey. At the age of seven he was diagnosed with glaucoma, an eye disorder that is relatively rare in children. This firsthand experience in care settings developed a growing interest in medicine for James and lead him to healthcare administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As a graduating senior, James discovered Ardent Health Services' Chief Operating Officer Development Program. He said our focus and commitment on leadership development is what originally attracted him to the company. The program introduced him to leadership at Ardent and to the CEO of Hackensack Meridian Pascack Valley Medical Center. James accepted a position as an administrative resident upon graduation in May 2019.

Mentors and role models are valuable relationships that James encourages others entering healthcare to develop. "Seek out leaders that are doing what you hope to achieve," he says. "When influential people come into your life, it is up to you to make the most of your journey."

To honor Black History Month, James supports Black businesses and continues to educate himself on Black history so he can educate others.

"Black History Month is always a reminder of the progress our country has made," he said. "While we still have more progress to make, we have come much further than we once were."

OUR PURPOSE is caring for people:  
our patients, their families and one another.