

## **Board Profile: Clyde Higgs**



### **Introduction:**

Clyde Higgs is an internationally recognized leader renowned for his expertise in implementing innovation districts and complex placemaking strategies. With over 20 years of experience in the private and public sectors, Clyde has left a profound impact on the economic development landscape. His visionary leadership and dedication to fostering equitable economic growth have earned him numerous accolades and recognition, including being named a "Most Admired CEO" by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

### **Career & Community Highlights:**

- Atlanta Business Chronicle "Most Admired CEO 2021" Award
- Georgia Trend 2022 Magazine "100 Most Influential leaders in Georgia"
- 2022 Spring Commencement Speaker, University of South Alabama
- Key leader in the development of a \$1 billion Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC
- Board Member to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (\$200 million venture fund)
- Associated with programs attracting 30,000 jobs and \$9 Billion in investment
- Vice Chairman, North Carolina Community College System

### **Tactical Skills:**

- University/Higher Education related partnership building for economic development
- Business incubation and venture capital investing
- Alliance Development (public/private partnerships)
- Legislative and community affairs management
- Workforce development training
- Commercial real estate negotiations
- Board management

### **Professional History:**

**Atlanta BeltLine Inc** (August 2015 to Present)

- CEO • 2/19-Present
- CEO (interim) • 8/18-2/19
- Chief Operating Officer • 8/15-8/18

**North Carolina Research Campus (Castle & Cooke Inc)** (June 2006 – August 2015)

- Executive Vice President (promotion) • 12/14 – 8/15
- Vice President, Economic Development • 6/06-12/14

**University of North Texas-Health Science Center** (October 2002 – June 2006)

- Executive Director

**North Carolina A&T State University** (July 1999 – August 2002)

- Director, Office of Technology Commercialization

**Education:**

- Master of Public Administration (Healthcare Administration Concentration) - East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
- Bachelor of Art, Psychology (concentration: Biomedical Sciences) - University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

**Other Board Memberships:**

- Board Member (Gubernatorial Appointment-Rick Perry) • Texas Emerging Technology Venture Fund (\$200 million) 6/05-06/06
- Board Member, NC Community College System (6/13-8/15) (Appointed by former Governor Bev Perdue)
- Board Member, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Charlotte (8/11-8/13)
- Board Member, NC State University (College of Life Sciences Foundation) (2/13-5/15)

**Philosophy and Vision:**

Clyde Higgs' philosophy is rooted in the belief that economic development should be a force for positive change and equitable growth. With extensive expertise in implementing innovation districts and placemaking strategies, Clyde envisions a future where thriving communities are empowered through strategic partnerships and inclusive initiatives. His visionary leadership seeks to harness the power of collaboration, forging strong alliances between the private and public sectors, and higher education institutions. Clyde's commitment to fostering equitable opportunities, coupled with his tactical skills in workforce development, venture capital investing, and community affairs management, positions him as a catalyst for transformative economic growth that leaves a lasting impact on residents' lives.

**Summary:**

Clyde Higgs' profound impact on the economic development landscape is a testament to his visionary leadership and dedication to driving equitable growth. As an internationally recognized leader, Clyde's philosophy revolves around harnessing the power of partnerships to create transformative communities where all individuals have access to opportunities for personal and professional advancement. His

commitment to creating positive change and improving lives exemplifies his passion for equitable economic growth and community development. As a valuable asset to any board, Clyde's proven track record of successful leadership, tactical skills, and strategic vision are instrumental in driving transformative change for the betterment of communities and the future of economic prosperity.