

Board Profile: Dr. Makola Abdullah



Introduction:

Dr. Makola Abdullah is a distinguished academic administrator and internationally recognized educator committed to excellence in education. With an impressive background in academic leadership and outstanding research, he has significantly contributed to the growth and success of various institutions.

Professional Background:

- **President:** Virginia State University (Feb 2016 - Present)
- **Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs:** Bethune-Cookman University (Jun 2013 - Jan 2016)
- **Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:** Florida Memorial University (Mar 2011 - Jun 2013)
- **Dean and Professor:** College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Jan 2008 - Mar 2011)
- **Associate Vice President for Research:** Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Nov 2005 - Jan 2008)
- **Professor, Civil Engineering:** FAMU/FSU College of Engineering (Aug 2006 - Dec 2007)
- **Associate Professor, Civil Engineering:** FAMU/FSU College of Engineering (Aug 2002 - Jul 2006)
- **Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering:** FAMU/FSU College of Engineering (Jan 1998 - Jul 2002)
- **Assistant Professor:** College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Aug 1996 - Dec 1997)
- **Engineer:** Jackson and Tull (Sep 1994 - Aug 1996)
- **Adjunct Professor:** Chicago State University (Jan 1995 - Jun 1996)
- **Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant, Tutor:** Northwestern University (Jun 1990 - Jun 1994)

Notable Achievements:

- Youngest African American to receive a Ph.D. in engineering.
- Elected as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Historical Society in 2018.
- Member of the executive committee for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.
- Board of Trustee member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
- Chair of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors.
- Inducted into the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Alumni Hall of Fame in 2017.

Education:

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Civil Engineering, Northwestern University
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Civil Engineering, Northwestern University
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Civil Engineering, Howard University

Professional Affiliations:

- Member, Presidential Board of Advisors, White House Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Chair-Elect, Board of Directors, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Executive Council, Board of Trustees, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Past Chair, Council of Presidents, Virginia Public University's Council of Presidents
- Past Chair, Council of 1890 Presidents, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Member, Board of Directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Past Chair, Board of Directors, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)
- Member, Board of Directors, The Richmond Forum
- Member, Board of Trustees, Virginia Museum of History & Culture
- Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Member, Board of Directors, GENEDGE
- Member, Board of Trustees, Lake Forest Academy

Philosophy and Vision:

Dr. Abdullah envisions higher education as a means of empowerment and societal advancement. His leadership philosophy revolves around promoting inclusive, quality education that prepares students for the challenges of the modern world. He believes in collaboration, innovation, and strong ethical values.

Summary:

Dr. Abdullah's remarkable journey in academia and leadership showcases his unwavering commitment to education and community betterment. His achievements, both in research and administrative roles, reflect his dedication to excellence and the advancement of educational institutions. Through his extensive affiliations and contributions, he continues to shape the future of higher education and inspire positive change.