

Board Profile: Dr. George T. French Jr.



Introduction:

Dr. George T. French Jr. is an accomplished and visionary leader in the field of higher education. In 2019, he assumed the prestigious role of the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University, the largest United Negro College Fund (UNCF) member institution in the country, and the largest private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) within the state of Georgia. He is the longest sitting HBCU president in the nation. With a distinguished career spanning several decades, Dr. French's contributions to academia and educational policy have earned him national recognition and numerous accolades.

Professional Background:

- President: Clark Atlanta University (2019 - Present)
- President: Miles College (2005 - 2019)

Notable Achievements:

- Under Dr. George T. French's leadership, Clark Atlanta University achieved unprecedented milestones in fundraising, surpassing all previous records in the university's history. His strategic approach and strong relationship-building skills have been instrumental in securing vital support for the institution's growth and development
- Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, Dr. French's adept leadership enabled Clark Atlanta University to maintain stable enrollment, ensuring continuity and success even during difficult times
- Dr. George T. French Jr.'s efforts in fostering strong ties with corporate entities and community stakeholders have positioned the university for remarkable future growth and expansion

Professional Affiliations:

- Three-term Board Member: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Chair UNCF Member Presidents
- Chair: Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAC) Council of Presidents
- Former Chair: Atlanta University Center Council of Presidents (Comprising Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Morehouse School of Medicine)

- Member: Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) Board of Directors
- Member: National Diverse Council of Regions Bank (Since 2011)

Education:

- Juris Doctor (J.D.): Miles Law School, University of Louisville
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.): Jackson State University

Notable Awards:

- Birmingham Spotlight Man of the Year
- NAACP Man of the Year
- Higher Education Leadership Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award

Philosophy and Vision:

Dr. George T. French Jr.'s approach to leadership centers on inclusive growth and empowering students to thrive in an ever-changing world. He envisions a future where Clark Atlanta University continues to be a trailblazing institution, fostering excellence, innovation, and social responsibility among its student body. Dr. French is committed to upholding the legacy of HBCUs and advancing educational policies that create equitable opportunities for all.

Summary:

Dr. George T. French Jr.'s remarkable tenure as the president of Clark Atlanta University and his distinguished contributions to the field of higher education and educational policy have solidified his status as an influential and respected leader. His unwavering commitment to the growth and success of the university, as well as his extensive experience in various prestigious boards and councils, make him an invaluable asset to any organization he serves. Dr. French's passion for education and dedication to creating positive change continue to inspire and uplift students and educators alike.