



### **Bio: Ronald A. Johnson, PhD**

Dr. Johnson is a strategic higher education executive who supports university boards and leaders in shaping their organizations' future. He has over 30 years of extensive academic and financial expertise. His leadership in higher education has been recognized by the American Enterprise Institute, which named him one of the Top 10 College Presidents of the Century.

Dr. Johnson, one of the co-founders of the HBCU Executive Leadership Institute at Clark Atlanta University, serves on its Advisory Board and the Council of HBCU Past Presidents. He is also an active member of the Registry Advisory for College and University Presidents. During his interim roles as President at Kentucky State University and Tennessee State University, he skillfully addressed challenges and helped steer the institutions toward achieving their goals.

As President of Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Johnson built a strong foundation by addressing long-term challenges in education, finance, operational performance, and global recognition. He significantly improved student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Under his leadership, the university successfully reaffirmed its accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Dr. Johnson's dedication to academic excellence is evident through his successful leadership as the dean of business schools at Texas Southern University and Western Carolina University. His innovative efforts to maintain educational standards improved these institutions' rankings and secured their continued accreditation by AACSB International.

Dr. Johnson is a respected figure in the global finance and investment industries. He chaired the Consumer Advisory Board for the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He served as president and chief investment officer at Smith, Graham & Company, managing over \$2.6 billion in assets for institutional investors. He also held positions as director of fixed-income research at Templeton Worldwide Inc. and chief strategist at Americas Trust Bank, and has experience as an economist at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the International Monetary Fund, and the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Dr. Johnson holds a PhD and MA in Economics from Stanford University, an MBA in Finance, and a BA in Economics from Adelphi University.