



DR. CHRISTOPHER B. HOWARD

DR. CHRISTOPHER B. HOWARD became the eighth president of Robert Morris University in suburban Pittsburgh on February 1, 2016. RMU combines academic excellence with a professional focus in more than 90 undergraduate and graduate degree programs across four academic schools. A nationally ranked, doctoral granting institution, RMU enrolls approximately 5,000 students.

Under Dr. Howard's leadership, RMU has become a preferred strategic partner for corporations, organizations, and professionals in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Under its latest strategic plan, RMU 100, the university is using Gallup research and powerful new technologies to boost retention and graduation rates so as to launch students into great careers. The university is nationally ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* and in 2019 opened the UPMC Events Center, the new home to the university's NCAA Division I basketball and volleyball teams. That project was part of the *RMU 100: Ready to Rise* fundraising campaign, which has raised over \$110 million to date, surpassing its \$100 million goal a year ahead of schedule. In 2021, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked RMU No. 48 on the magazine's list of Best Value Schools, a reflection of RMU's high academic quality and affordable price.

Dr. Howard is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned a B.S. in political science in 1991. A Rhodes Scholar, he earned his doctorate in politics at the University of Oxford and an M.B.A. with distinction from the Harvard Business School, and in 2018 received the school's Alumni Achievement Award. He received the Campbell Trophy, the highest academic award in the country presented to a senior college football player, and was inducted into the CoSIDA Academic All-America Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award, which recognizes distinguished individuals on the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of their college athletic careers. Dr. Howard has received the Armed Forces Merit Award from the Football Writers Association of America. He is a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and served as one of 13 members of the College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

A retired Air Force reserve lieutenant colonel, Dr. Howard served as a helicopter pilot and then became an intelligence officer for the elite Joint Special Operations Command. Defense Secretary William Cohen asked Dr. Howard to accompany a 1999 U.S. delegation to South Africa as a political-military advisor.

He was called back to active duty during 2003 in Afghanistan, and was awarded the Bronze Star. Dr. Howard also served as the Reserve Air Attaché to Liberia.

Prior to his appointment as president of RMU, Dr. Howard for six years was the president of Hampden-Sydney College, near Richmond, Va. During Dr. Howard's tenure as president, enrollment, retention, and alumni giving increased. Previously he served as vice president for leadership and strategic initiatives at the University of Oklahoma, where he also served as the director of the Honors College Leadership Center and a President's Associates Presidential Professor.

Dr. Howard enjoyed a successful career in the corporate world, working at General Electric and Bristol-Myers Squibb. At both companies, Dr. Howard's responsibilities included sales, marketing, international project management, strategic planning, internal consulting, and business development.

Dr. Howard is a trustee on the Harvard University Board of Overseers and also serves on the Board of Directors of AvalonBay Communities, a publicly-traded real estate corporation. Dr. Howard is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Young Presidents Organization, the Aspen Strategy Group and Trilateral Commission, and Sigma Pi Phi, the oldest African-American fraternity in the United States. Dr. Howard served on the National Security Education Board, appointed by President Barack Obama, and the MyVA Advisory Committee for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Howard is the founder and a trustee of the Impact Young Lives Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports South African youth.

Dr. Howard is highly sought after as a speaker by the nation's premiere higher education organizations, including the College Board, the Education Advisory Board, Ruffalo Noel Levitz, and the National Association of College and University Business Officers. He has been featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed*. Dr. Howard has taught seminars in the Harvard Graduate School of Education Management Development Program and spoken at the Arizona State University-Georgetown University Academy for Innovative Higher Education Leadership.

Dr. Howard is married to Barbara Noble Howard from Johannesburg, South Africa. Barbara is a Temple University graduate, director of the Impact Young Lives Foundation, a member of the board of trustees of The Frick Pittsburgh, the board of trustees of The Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, and the board of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Howards have two adult sons, Cohen (graduate of the The University of the South) and Joshua (graduate of Middlebury College).

DR. CHRISTOPHER B. HOWARD

OTHER HONORS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Member of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame Board of Directors
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Markle Foundation
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, serving on the Infrastructure Committee, the Racial Equity Task Force, and its Next 75 Steering Committee.
- Founder, former chairman, and current trustee of the Impact Young Lives Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarship and travel African university students of color.
- Named one of “The 20 Most Interesting College Presidents” by The Best Schools.
- Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellow.
- Graduate of the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents.
- One of the few college or university chief executives in the U.S. invited to join the Young Presidents’ Organization.
- Member of the Pittsburgh International Airport Terminal Modernization Program Advisory Group.
- Ex-Officio Member of the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
- 2012 Honoree, Dominion Power’s Strong Men and Women: Excellence in Leadership Series.
- 2010 African-American Trailblazer in Virginia History by the Library of Virginia.
- Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Centre College, Ripon College, and the Rush University College of Medicine.
- Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Christopher Newport University.
- Member of the Trilateral Commission and Aspen Strategy Group
- Member of the Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boule, the oldest African American fraternity in the United States.
- Honorary member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society serving AACSB-accredited business schools.
- Honorary member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.
- Gift made in the Howards’ honor at Hampden-Sydney College to create the Chris and Barbara Howard Chair in Rhetoric.
- Member of the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh.
- Advisory Board member of the ‘With Honor’ initiative providing bipartisan support to veterans running or serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Former Member of the Duquesne Club Board of Directors.
- Former Leadership Council for The Aspen Institute’s Franklin Project encouraging civic responsibility.
- Former National Council of Advisors of the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.
- Former member of the “MyVA” Advisory Committee, appointed by then Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert McDonald.
- Former member of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe’s Commission to Ensure Integrity and Public Confidence in State Government.

EDUCATION-RELATED APPOINTMENTS

- Member of Harvard University Board of Overseers.
- Higher Education Working Group on Global Issues of the Council on Foreign Relations.
- Future of Independent Education steering committee for the Council of Independent Colleges.
- Member of the Institute of International Education Centennial Fellowships selection committee.
- Member of the NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee on Sports Wagering.
- 1 of 28 Members of the NCAA Constitution Committee
- Former Chair of the NCAA Honors Committee.
- Former Advisory Board of the Morehouse College Research Institute.
- Former member of the Board of Directors at the American Council on Education.
- Former member of the National Security Education Program Board, nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

- Former trustee of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars.
- Former member of the National Intelligence University Board of Visitors.
- Selected by Steve Schwarzman to serve on the inaugural selection committee for the Schwarzman Scholars Program.
- Former member of the Board of Trustees of The Fessenden School in West Newton, Massachusetts.
- Former member of the Board of Trustees of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Former member of the National Defense University Board of Visitors.
- Former member of the Board of Regents at Baylor University.
- Former member of the Board of the Olmstead Foundation

BUSINESS-RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Member of the AvalonBay Communities Board of Directors
- Member of the St. Clair Hospital Board of Directors; Chair of the Quality, Safety & Service Committee
- RMU named an honoree of the Pittsburgh Smart 50 Awards, recognizing the top 50 smartest companies in the Greater Pittsburgh region
- Co-author with David Snider of the 2010 book Money Inside the New World of Finance and Business.
- Former member of the Olo Systems Advisory Board and formerly on the Board of Directors of Converge, an IT de-manufacturing firm.
- Former Senior Advisor on African Affairs at the Albright Stonebridge Group, an international advisory firm for Fortune 1000 companies.
- Former acting Managing Director of Endeavor South Africa, a global initiative that supports entrepreneurs in the developing world.
- Served as the youngest annual Washington Post-Harvard University “America’s Best Leaders” selection committee.