

Dr. James C. (Jimmie) Williamson

“I believe that commitment to affordability and accessibility, while embracing accountability and transparency, are the hallmarks of [community colleges’] sector of higher education; principles we must all embrace.” *(Excerpted from a letter from Dr. Williamson to the Presidential Search Committee of the State Board of Community Colleges, January, 2016)*

Affordability and accessibility. These are the foundational blocks upon which the NC Community College System was built nearly 54 years ago, and they continue to serve as touchstones for the System’s newly elected President, Dr. James C. “Jimmie” Williamson, who will begin his role as the eighth System President on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Williamson brings a background steeped in education, business, economic development, workforce development and community service. Most recently, he served two years as the System President and CEO of the SC Technical College system, where the highlights of his tenure included working with South Carolina university partners to smooth transfer pathways, chairing a special Senate proviso committee to develop a comprehensive workforce development strategy to help close the skills gap, and working with companies such as Volvo, Michelin, Continental, BMW and more on industry-specific worker training. Additionally, he has been at the helm of South Carolina’s nationally recognized apprenticeship program and was named State Employee of The Year by the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils in 2015.

His insight into workforce development is informed by both his 20 years in the SC technical system, rising through roles from registrar to dean to two college presidencies and then to System President, and by his six years in a leadership position with Agapé Senior, a healthcare related industry in South Carolina. While serving in the private sector, Dr. Williamson was honored by ASHHRA with the inaugural Gary Willis Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and innovation as a healthcare human resources professional. He is a member of the Residential Care/Assisted Living exam construction committee for the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards and has served as a reviewer for several long-term care textbooks.

Academically, Dr. Williamson holds a B.V.A and M.Ed. from Winthrop University, as well as a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. A long-time Rotarian, Dr. Williamson served as District Governor of Rotary District 7770 in 2014-15 and is involved in his community having served as board member of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and as a member of various economic development boards. He is former member of the Board of Trustees of Chesterfield County School Board, and a former member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees. He has been honored by Winthrop University with the Alumni Professional Achievement Award as well as the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award (first awarded as an undergraduate, then as an Alumnus). Additionally, he was named “Citizen of the Year” from the Williamsburg Hometown Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Williamson and his wife, Kim, live in Cheraw, SC, and have two sons.