



**DR. CHRISTOPHER B. HOWARD** became the eighth president of Robert Morris University in suburban Pittsburgh on February 1, 2016. RMU is a nationally ranked university that combines academic excellence with a professional focus in more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs across five academic schools. More than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate, nontraditional and online students from 48 states and 39 nations are enrolled at RMU, which sits on 230 scenic acres just 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh.

Dr. Howard aims to make RMU the preferred strategic partner for corporations, organizations, professionals, and aspiring professionals in the Pittsburgh region and beyond. The university is now nationally ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, which also rates RMU among the top 10 percent of universities for online bachelor's degree programs in the nation. In January 2016, Dr. Howard announced that RMU would build the UPMC Events Center and a student recreation and fitness center, a \$50 million capital project that is the largest in RMU's history.

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. He received the Campbell Trophy, the highest academic award in the country presented to a senior college football player, and was inducted into the Verizon Academic All-America Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award, which recognizes distinguished individuals on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of their college athletic careers. Dr. Howard is a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and 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 after earning his doctorate, 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 for his service. 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, a private, liberal arts college near Richmond, Va. During



Dr. Howard's tenure as president, enrollment, retention, and alumni giving all increased at Hampden-Sydney. 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 in General Electric's Corporate Initiatives Group as well as Bristol-Myers Squibb's Corporate Associates Program. At both companies, Dr. Howard's responsibilities included sales, marketing, international project management, strategic planning, internal consulting, and business development.

He has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, ESPN.com, NPR's "All Things Considered" and "On Being" and has been interviewed on CNN, PBS, and PRI's "The Tavis Smiley Show."

**Other honors and appointments include:**

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.
  - Member of the Committee on Infrastructure & Transportation
- Member of the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Former member of the "MyVA" Advisory Committee, appointed by then Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert McDonald.
- Founder, former chairman, and current trustee of the Impact Young Lives Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarship and travel opportunities for South African university students of color.
- Named one of "The 20 Most Interesting College Presidents" by *The Best Schools*.
- National Council of Advisors of the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.
- 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.
- Ex-Officio Member of the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
- Leadership Council for The Aspen Institute's Franklin Project encouraging civic responsibility.
- 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.
- Former member of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe's Commission to Ensure Integrity and Public Confidence in State Government.



- 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 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.

#### **Education-related appointments:**

- Higher Education Working Group on Global Issues of the Council on Foreign Relations.
- Advisory Board of the Morehouse College Research Institute.
- Board of the Olmstead Foundation, which provides young military leaders the opportunity to achieve fluency in a foreign language and pursue their graduate studies at an overseas university.
- Future of Independent Higher Education steering committee for the Council of Independent Colleges.
- Former member of the Board of Regents at Baylor University.
- 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, a highly selective master's program at Tsinghua University in Beijing aimed at fostering future international leaders.
- 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.

#### **Athletics-related appointments:**

- Member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Member of the NCAA Honors Selection Committee.
- Member of the National Football Foundation Awards Committee.



- Former member of the Capital One Academic All-America Hall of Fame Selection Committee.
- Former member of the NCAA Division III Presidents Council.
- College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

**Business-related achievements and appointments:**

- Co-author with David Snider of the 2010 book *Money Makers: Inside the New World of Finance and Business*.
- 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.
- Served as the youngest member of the annual *Washington Post*-Harvard University "America's Best Leaders" selection committee.
- Former acting Managing Director of Endeavor South Africa, a global initiative that supports entrepreneurs in the developing world.

**Personal**

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 Virginia War Memorial Board of Directors, a Trustee of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and a Trustee of the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. The Howards have two sons, Cohen and Joshua. Cohen is a 2016 graduate of Sewanee: The University of the South, and Joshua is a junior at Middlebury College.