

Dr. Donald E. Palm is a visionary and transformative leader in higher education, with more than 30 years of distinguished service in academic administration, student success, faculty development, and research excellence. His commitment to educational excellence is rooted in a deep understanding of the transformative power of higher education to change lives and strengthen communities.

Dr. Palm holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Penn State University's Hershey Medical Center and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Neurosurgery at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital. He has completed executive leadership training with several prestigious programs including the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program and the Management Development Program (MDP) at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

As the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU), Dr. Palm is responsible for executive oversight of multiple divisions, including Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Research, Strategic Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness. In his role, he provides strategic leadership to ensure academic quality, student success, research productivity, and institutional operations efficiency.

Previously, Dr. Palm served as Executive Vice President and Provost at Virginia State University (VSU), with additional duties serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Research. During his tenure, VSU successfully secured a record \$250 Million and \$48 Million respectfully in both Capital and Operational funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The academic inventory grew with the development of eight new innovative academic degree programs, six fully online programs and the establishment of 10 new institutes and centers. VSU enrolled its largest incoming class of new students in more than three decades and increased the four-year graduation rate to the highest in the university's history.

At both FAMU and VSU, he has leveraged strategic planning as a catalyst for transformation and intentional success. Through his leadership and commitment to excellence, he has led initiatives that have redefined student success, elevated national rankings, secured historic funding, and cultivated a culture of innovation and accountability.

Dr. Palm is an active member of several distinguished organizations, including Sigma Pi Phi (Boule') Fraternity, Inc.; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; the United Supreme Council 33° AASR Southern Jurisdiction PHA; Prince Hall Masons; and the Prince Hall Shriners (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.). He is a devoted husband to Nekisha Palm and a proud father of three—Brandon, Qu'Riya, and Donovan.