



Elwood L. Robinson was elected Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University in September of 2014 by the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina and assumed his duties on January 1, 2015

Prior to election as Chancellor at WSSU, he had served as Provost and Vice-President of Cambridge College. As Cambridge College's chief academic officer, Robinson advised the president on matters of educational policy and the development of teaching and academic programs. He also managed the school's academic planning and program reviews and oversaw its regional academic centers located in Massachusetts, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, California and Puerto Rico. Under his watch, the teacher education program achieved national accreditation and the College forged an innovative partnership with Granite State College in New Hampshire to offer online programs — the first private/state partnership of its kind in New England. In addition, the American Council on Education awarded Cambridge a grant to establish an Innovation and Change Lab designed to increase the number of first-generation and nontraditional students earning college degrees.

A native of Ivanhoe, NC, Robinson graduated *magna cum laude* from North Carolina Central University in 1978 with a degree in psychology, then earned a master's degree also in psychology from Fisk University in Tennessee (1980). After completing a pre-doctoral internship at Duke University Medical Center, performing rotations in neuropsychology, psychiatric inpatient and behavioral medicine and health psychology, he earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from Pennsylvania State University (1986). He later completed his clinical training as a research associate at Duke University Medical Center (1990-1993).

Robinson joined the faculty of NCCU in 1984. In 1993, he was named Director of the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, which provides research-training opportunities for students and faculty from minority groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. He directed the federally funded program for the next 11 years, establishing collaborations with several major research universities, expanding course offerings, and mentoring more than 100 MARC Scholars. Remarkably, 80 percent of those scholars entered graduate school and 40 percent have achieved doctoral degrees.

For the past 8 years, Dr. Robinson has tirelessly served the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of WSSU. Under his leadership, WSSU has accomplished many significant milestones. To include the following:

- The launch of one of the most ambitious and campus-led strategic plans that will take the university to new heights by 2030.

- The university's research portfolio has exceeded \$164 million thanks to the world-class faculty and staff.
- The university has tripled its endowment to more than \$100 million dollars while also receiving the single largest unrestricted donation of \$30 million.
- WSSU received and invested more than \$145 million in capital projects, including two residence halls, a new sciences building, and the creation of the WSSU Arts District, which includes a renovation of K.R. Williams Auditorium and Hauser Halls. The arts district will not only serve the university, it will also be a beacon for entertainment and arts education state-wide.
- WSSU was able to successfully enroll the large graduate student population in the history of the university.
- Student athletes and coaches won 16 CIAA championships. Including 2 national championships in baseball.
- During a worldwide pandemic, Dr. Robinson lead the university to the successful completion of its ten-year SACS COC reaffirmation process.

Active in professional and civic organizations, Dr. Robinson has received numerous awards and honors over the course of his career. A former National Institutes of Health Fellow, he has received the Sigma Xi Award, the Omega Psi Phi Founder's Award, an Image Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He has served on the boards of the YMCA of the Greater Triangle, the Center for Child and Family Health, the Uplift Foundation, and currently, Novant Health. He has also served as a delegate for the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program to China, Egypt, and South Africa.

Dr. Robinson is married to Myra Denise Robinson, a 1978 NCCU graduate and former elementary school teacher. Together, they have two children: Chanita Robinson Coulter (married to William Coulter), a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University and Harvard University; and Devin JaVar, an entrepreneur and student at North Carolina A&T State University. Chanita and William are responsible for the Robinson's two grandchildren, Skylar (8) and William Isaiah (3).

Elwood L. Robinson
Chancellor Emeritus, Winston-Salem State University