



**Johnnetta Betsch Cole**

Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole has a long and distinguished career as an educator and humanitarian. Her work as a college professor and president, her published works, her speeches and her community service consistently address issues of racial, gender and all other forms of discrimination. Much of her work in the interest of equality and social justice is now centered in her role as the Chair of the Board of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute, founded at Bennett College for Women.

Dr. Cole is President emerita of Bennett College for Women and Spelman College. She is the only individual to have served as the president of the two historically Black colleges for women in the United States. She is also Professor emerita of Emory University from which she retired as Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies and African American Studies.

After beginning her college studies at Fisk University, Dr. Cole completed her undergraduate work at Oberlin College. She earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern University. The author of numerous publications for scholarly and general audiences, Dr. Cole's most recent publication is a book co-authored with Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall: *Gender Talk: the Struggle for Women's Equality in African-American Communities*.

Dr. Cole volunteers with the United Way movement on a community and national level. She served as board chair for the United Way in Metropolitan Atlanta from 1996-1997 as the organization moved its focus toward community impact results. She was a member of The Leadership Society of United Way of Metro Atlanta which was renamed the Johnnetta B. Cole Society in 1997. She was a founding member of the African American Partnership in Atlanta and the Women's Legacy Program.

While living in Greensboro, North Carolina, from 2002-2007, Dr. Cole was active with the United Way of Greater Greensboro. She served as the honorary chair of that United Way's African American Leadership initiative and she was a member of United Way's Tocqueville Women's Leadership initiative in the greater Greensboro community.

In 2001, Dr. Cole was honored with the United Way of America Alexis de Tocqueville Award for Community Service. In May 2004, Dr. Cole became the first African American to serve as Chair of the Board of United Way of America. Following her two year term as the chair, she continues to serve on the UWA board. Dr. Cole is a member of the national United Way Women's Leadership Council.

In addition to her involvement with United Way, Dr. Cole serves on a number of other not-for-profit boards, and she is on the board of directors of Merck & Co., Inc.; and she is on the Advisory Board of The Atlanta Falcons. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Visionary Leadership Project. She is on the board of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe and TransAfrica Forum. She is on the Advisory Committee of America's Promise and she serves on The Scholarly Advisory Committee of The National Museum of African History and Culture. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Links, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women.

In addition to 52 honorary degrees, Dr. Cole has received numerous awards, including the TransAfrica Global Public Service Award, the Radcliff Medal, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kil Medal, The Joseph Prize for Human Rights presented by the Anti-Defamation League, The Uncommon Height Award from the National Council of Negro Women, The John W. Gardner Leadership Award from The Independent Sector, and the Lenore and George W. Romney Citizen Volunteer Award from the Points of Light Foundation.

Dr. Cole is married to James D. Staton, Jr. She is the mother of three sons and has two granddaughters. She is also a mentor to many young women and men.