

## **Biography for Dr. Michael Torrence**

Identified as a strategist, connector, visionary, influencer, and implementor, Dr. Michael Torrence is the seventh seated President of Motlow State Community College, a front-runner in higher education across Tennessee and the nation. Since arriving in May 2018, Dr. Torrence has transformed Motlow State into an award-winning, cutting-edge, innovative college year after year. He has masterfully blended the rural with the urban all the while touching students and transforming communities one at a time. His leadership and vision have placed the College on platforms and before audiences that were unknown to Motlow before his arrival.

Dr. Torrence is a technology strategist, having worked in higher education for approximately 30 years. He deliberately creates space so everyone may have a voice and a seat at the table. He practices inclusive excellence and holistic development. His areas of expertise include Community and Economic Development, Research, Adult Education, Student Success, Academic Affairs, Professional Development, Distance Learning, and Diversity-Equity- Inclusion, and Belonging. Additional interests are Applied Learning with Open Education Resources (OER), Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality, Automation, Robotics, Mechatronics, and Gamification as platforms for education, learning, and training business and industry to increase efficiency and scalability. Dr. Torrence is also an entrepreneurial business development professional.

Dr. Torrence serves on local, state, national, and international boards that influence and shape the future of higher education. He is the recipient of many awards crossing several categories. Recently, he was named a Distinguished Alumni by South Dakota State University, where he earned both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. He served on the American Association of Community Colleges Board and was appointed to the Community Colleges of Appalachian Board of Directors. He is a coveted Maxine Smith Fellow and is only one of two Fellows who serve as a Community College President in the Tennessee Board of Regents--the College System of Tennessee, the system that governs community and technical colleges. He is a premier speaker and lecturer. Dr. Torrence is an Air Force veteran. He earned a Ph.D. in Exceptional Learning (Literacy) from Tennessee Technological University.