

L. JERRY KNIGHTON, JR.
Clemson University
*Assistant Vice President for Access and Equity/
Executive Director of Supplier Diversity*



L. Jerry Knighton, Jr. serves as Assistant Vice President for Access and Equity and Executive Director of Supplier Diversity at Clemson University. In this role, he is responsible for monitoring the university's compliance with state and federal laws related to Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Equitable Treatment. In August of 2018, he was also named Executive Director of Supplier Diversity where he is responsible for monitoring efforts to increase minority business participation which includes all Clemson University capital projects both public and private.

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Knighton has been employed in higher education administration for over 30 years. A 2008 graduate of the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Academy at Furman University, Knighton also provides a variety of training workshops designed to address issues related to AA/EEO compliance, unlawful discrimination and harassment, workplace diversity, and procurement inclusion.

In the area of supplier diversity, Knighton serves on the Carolinas Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council (CVMSDC) Board as Chair of the Upstate SC Regional Industry Needs Group (RING). This group is an affiliate of the NMSDC and promotes business opportunities for small and minority-owned enterprises. In 2017, CVMSDC recognized Clemson for *Best New Program* for supplier diversity initiatives. More recently, *Insight Into Diversity* magazine honored Clemson with the 2021 Jessie L. Moore Supplier Diversity Award for its accomplishments.

Knighton is from Clinton, SC. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where he obtained both a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at Clemson University.