

## **Jesse L. White, Jr.**

Dr. Jesse L. White, Jr., is Director of the Office of Economic and Business Development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which he founded in the spring of 2004. He also is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Government. Prior to coming to UNC-Chapel Hill in January 2003, he served for almost nine years as Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the longest tenure in the history of the agency.

From 1990–1994, Dr. White was a consultant, lecturer, and writer in the field of economic development and strategic planning. In the spring semester of 1990 he was a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University. From 1982–1990, he led the Southern Growth Policies Board as its executive director; and prior to that he was chief policy planner in the newly created United States Department of Education and a staff assistant to U. S. Senator John C. Stennis. From 1972-1976 he was Secretary of the Mississippi Senate.

Dr. White, a native Mississippian, received his B.A., *summa cum laude*, at the University of Mississippi in political science and history. He was Mississippi's first Marshall Scholar, receiving his master's degree in international relations from the University of Sussex. He was awarded the Ph. D. degree in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979.

Dr. White is a nationally recognized authority on regional economic development. He is Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, recipient of the Phillips Medal for Public Service from Ohio University, and a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C. He serves on the boards of Regional Technology Strategies, Triangle Tomorrow, and the Rural School and Community Trust, and is on the advisory boards of the Appalachian College Association, the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, the Rural Poverty Research Center, and the William F. Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

At Carolina he serves on many advisory boards, including the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity; the Carolina Center for Public Service; the Program on Public Life; the Engagement Council; and the Office of Technology Development.