



**Isaac V. McKissick**

Isaac V. McKissick is a Union, SC native whose background is representative of the African-American History that the WEGOJA Foundation is seeking to preserve. As a young boy: he received treatment at the Union Community Hospital; attended kindergarten and was baptized at Corinth Baptist Church; shined shoes, delivered the AFRO-American and JET on Wall Street; and was a member of the last class to enter the illustrious Sims High School in 1969.

Being nurtured in this cradle of history and blessed by a number of mentors and teachers led him through segregated schools and Union High School as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, to graduation from West Point at age 20 in 1979 as one of fewer than 400 African-American graduates in the first 177 years of the Military Academy's existence.

After serving six years in the US Army as an Infantry Officer, he joined General Dynamics Land Systems as an Operations Analyst developing requirements for the M1A1 Abrams Tank. His Systems Engineering and Integration expertise led to him being recruited to assist in streamlining Engineering Development at General Motors and later service as a Purchasing Agent.

He concurrently earned advanced degrees in Engineering Management and Applied Economics and Finance from the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Upon returning to General Dynamics in 2003, he served as the Procurement Manager for the Future Combat Systems Embedded Training Program and Program Manager for Switchable Vision Blocks.

He returned to SC in 2008 and until 2015, he served in Spartanburg School District 7 managing partnerships and proposals that resulted in the award of \$6M+ in Grants and Education Awards to include AmeriCorps (Service Learning and Literacy), Full Service Community Schools (Early Childhood Education) and McKinney-Vento (Support for Homeless Students).

From 2017 until his retirement in 2022, he served as Director of the Union County Campus of Spartanburg Community College. His five-year tenure resulted in tripling the student body size that included a ninefold increase in minority enrollment.

He is a Rotarian, member of the United Way Union County Vision Council, and Union County Development Board.

He is a SC Champion for Public Education and Certified Community Economic Developer with a passion for Mentoring, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) manifested through service as Former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Upstate and the membership in the Upstate STEM Collaborative.