

PROFILE OF

DR. ROBERT B. DONALDSON

EDUCATOR, PUBLIC SERVANT AND BUSINESSMAN

Dr. Robert B. Donaldson, Full Professor of Public Administration in the College of Business and Public Administration at Governors State University and Director of the Master of Public Administration Programs (MPA) and Master Thesis Projects, is a man on a mission. His mission: to inspire his students, colleagues and neighbors and citizens of Hazel Crest, Illinois to become more intimately involved in the political processes that govern our collective lives.

Leading by example, Dr. Donaldson – in addition to his teaching and administrative duties and Program Director of the MPA Program at Governors State University—serves as a Senior Commissioner on the Public Building Commission (PBC) of Chicago where he oversees the construction and renovation of myriad municipal facilities with a total value of over \$1 billion dollars. He represents the Cook County Forest Preserve District on the PBC.

Commissioner Donaldson made history in Illinois on March 1, 1983. He was named the first African American in the County of Cook Illinois to be appointed to the Public Building Commission of Chicago. He is completing his fifth term. Each term of office is for five (5) years. He was appointed to two (2) terms by former President George W. Dunne; one (1) term by former President Richard Phelan and two (2) terms by President John H. Stroger, Jr., the current President of the Cook County Board of Commission. After his term ends in September 2008, Commissioner Donaldson would have served 25 years for the citizens of Cook County Illinois on the PBC.

Also, he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Community Action Services, Incorporated (CASI), a minority-owned, not-for-profit school bus transportation company. Under his leadership, CASI grew to 102 employees and 52 school buses, serving thousands of Head Start, elementary and high school students. CASI's operating budget averaged \$3.3 million dollars per year with an aggregate amount of \$24 million over an eight (8) year period. The transportation component operated on contracts with the Community and Economic Development Agency of Cook County, Inc.'s (CEDA) Head Start Programs and Welfare to Work-Initiatives. In addition, CASI had contracts with the Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District and City of Chicago's Department of Aging. CASI provided professional and safe transportation for over 29 years.

On April 5, 2005, Dr. Donaldson was elected Mayor of Hazel Crest, Illinois. His Vision Party, which he founded, made history in Hazel Crest politics. The Vision Party defeated all incumbents. Nineteen candidates was slated to run for various elected offices. Eighteen of the nineteen candidates won their seats.

As an elected official, Dr. Donaldson has served as a High School Board member for School District #228 (Bremen Township) in Midlothian, Illinois. He served four (4) years and was chairman of the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee and served on the Collective Bargaining Committee.

Dr. Donaldson was elected in April 1989 – 1993 as Village Trustee for the Village of Hazel Crest. He was appointed President Pro Tempore and was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Boards and Commissions. In 1979, he became the first African American to be appointed to the Village of Hazel Crest's Zoning Board of Appeals. He served 10 years as a Commissioner on the ZBA.

Along with rendering service to his community, Dr. Donaldson uses his skills and expertise to instruct others to become excellent public servants. He has initiated and conducted numerous workshops and conferences, including The Public Service Career Forum held in conjunction with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA); the Political Conference for Black Elected Officials in Illinois; and the Educational Conference for Women in Politics in the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area. He lobbied members of the U. S. Congress to pass legislation dealing with National Community Action Programs and Head Start Initiatives in March 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Esteemed by his peers and his students, Dr. Donaldson is the recipient of the 2000 and 2002 Student Recognition Award; the 1998 and 2002 Faculty Excellence Award; and the 1996 University Community Service Award from Governors State University. He received two Professional Advancement Increases (PAI) Awards for 1989 and 1993. Also, he received in 1995 and 1998 the University Student Service Award; and the 1996 University Community Service Award.

Additionally, he has been recognized by the Illinois Association of Black Americans in Vocational Education; the Illinois Vocational Association; Senator Earline Collins Achievement Award; and the Young Executives in Politics for outstanding contributions. He, also received the 2000 Vision Quest Award from the Theta Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; 2002 Black Contractors United Association of Chicago Annual Award; and the 2002 Black Architect Association of Chicago Award for Outstanding Leadership.

A graduate of Florida A & M University, Roosevelt and Western Michigan Universities, he is a member of numerous organizations including the American Society for Public Administration and National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), Conference of Minority Public Administrators, Illinois School Transportation Association, Chicago School Transportation Association, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association of Southern Cook County, and Southland Chamber of Commerce.

He is a Life Member of Florida A & M University National Alumni Association and a current member of Florida A & M University's Chicago Chapter. From 1970 to 1975 he was president of the Chicago Alumni Chapter of Florida A & M University. In 1971, he was the founder and first President of the North Central Regional Chapters of Florida A & M University's National Alumni Association.

He is an active and 2004 Charter member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Chicago South Suburban Chapter (Chi Lambda Lambda), Hazel Crest, Illinois.

In May 2006, he was appointed to the Advocate South Suburban Hospital's Board of Governance.