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Kevin D. Rome, Ph.D., is the Senior Higher Education Advisor at Cotton Law. Dr. Rome brings a distinguished background in Higher Education, with deep expertise in crisis management and a proven track record of impactful board service and leadership.



Upon his appointment as the 16th president of Fisk University in July 2017, Dr. Kevin D. Rome Sr. inherited an institution facing significant financial challenges, which had led to its probationary status with SACSCOC. Under Dr. Rome's leadership, Fisk University implemented strategic financial controls and operational improvements, resulting SACSCOC officially lifting the probation and reaffirming Fisk University's full accreditation in September, 2020.

Dr. Rome also served as the 19th president of Lincoln University from 2013, to 2017, where he implemented initiatives that led to a 50% increase in enrollment and the development of new academic programs. His Higher Education leadership roles include serving as Vice Chancellor

for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at North Carolina Central University until 2013, Vice President for Student Services at Morehouse College, Vice President for Campus Life at Clayton State University, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Diversity at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. Early in his career, he was a Residence Hall Supervisor for the Upward Bound Program at Georgia Southwestern College and served as a Residence Director and Financial Aid Counselor at the University of Georgia from 1989 to 1991.

In addition to his academic roles, Dr. Rome has held numerous leadership positions on boards and organizations. He served on the boards of Central Bank, the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, and the Capital Region Medical Center. He was a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Board of Directors, Chair of the Council of 1890 Universities Executive Committee (APLU), and Chair of the APLU Commission on Access, Diversity, and Excellence (CADE). He was also a member of the Advisory Council on HBCU Governance and Leadership for the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and a member of the Rotary Club of Nashville, reflecting his deep commitment to civic engagement.

Dr. Rome's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts in English from Morehouse College (1989), a Master of Education in College Student Personnel from the University of Georgia (1991), and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Texas at Austin (2001).

Throughout his career, Dr. Rome has demonstrated exceptional leadership, inspiring innovation in student engagement, diversity, and academic excellence. His legacy at Lincoln University and Fisk University highlights his dedication to advancing the mission of Higher Education and making a lasting impact on the institutions and communities he has served.

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