

## **Edgar F. Beckham**

Edgar F. Beckham is Senior Fellow at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, where he consults with staff of the Association and with individual colleges and universities on campus diversity and its relationship to liberal education, civic engagement, and the pursuit of educational excellence. From 1990 to 1998 Beckham coordinated the Ford Foundation's Campus Diversity Initiative, which provided more than \$20 million in support of campus diversity activities at colleges and universities across the country. He also coordinated the planning of three international seminars on campus diversity in India, South Africa, and the United States, and wrote and edited materials for the three volumes of essays based on the seminars. He has lectured extensively in the United States and India on campus diversity and democracy.

Beckham graduated from Wesleyan University in 1958. He received an MA in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Yale in 1959, and completed his doctoral course work in 1961. He has received honorary doctorates from Olivet College and Clark University. In 1997 he received the Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Beckham began his academic career at Wesleyan University as Instructor of German in 1961. He spent 28 of the next 29 years at Wesleyan, serving in various posts, including Lecturer in German, Director of the Language Laboratory, Associate Provost, and from 1973-1990 Dean of the College. In addition to courses in German language and literature, Beckham taught Freshman Humanities and courses in African-American Studies at Wesleyan. His administrative responsibilities as Dean included student services, faculty advising, foreign study programs, and public safety. He spent academic year 1966-67 in Germany, where he taught English language and African-American history and literature at the University of Erlangen. He also lectured extensively at America Houses throughout the Federal Republic of Germany on the state of civil rights and racial consciousness in the United States.

Beckham was Chairman of the Connecticut State Board of Education from December 1992 to March 1995. He is Trustee Emeritus of Vermont Academy. He currently chairs the Board of the Donna Wood Foundation and is a Trustee of Mt. Holyoke College, a member of the Board of NAFSA: the Association of International Educators, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Appalachian College Association. In the past he has chaired the Boards of Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Middlesex Hospital, The Rockfall Foundation, The Connecticut Humanities Council, and the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund. He has also served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

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