

LOUIS D. WHITESIDES, DBA, CRA

Chief Academic Officer | 1890 Land-Grant University Executive | Research Administration Leader

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr. Louis D. Whitesides is a senior higher education executive, Chief Academic Officer, and 1890 land-grant university leader whose career integrates academic leadership, research administration, Cooperative Extension, public service, and institutional governance. He serves as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Carolina State University, directing the colleges and schools, faculty affairs, academic budget, accreditation, student success, and research enterprise as a direct report to the President.

What distinguishes his record is executive responsibility across the full land-grant enterprise rather than one division of it. Across nearly 30 years he has directed agricultural research, led statewide Cooperative Extension and public service programming, built federal and state partnerships, and managed externally funded research, and he now leads the academic enterprise. That span allows him to integrate academic excellence, research productivity, community engagement, and economic development into a unified institutional strategy.

His executive record carries measurable results. He has secured more than \$150 million in competitive grants, state appropriations, capital investments, and partner resources; managed annual portfolios exceeding \$23 million without a single audit finding; and built the research capacity that supported the university's advancement to R2 Carnegie classification. He led the creation of a new college, designed scholarship and retention models that produced an 86 percent four-year graduation rate within a 150-student cohort, and delivered ten facilities totaling roughly 90,000 square feet across the state.

Dr. Whitesides' scholarship complements his executive leadership rather than sitting apart from it. He maintains an active research program examining institutional governance, organizational trust, land-grant university leadership, and agricultural economics, and he applies that work to questions of institutional performance in public higher education. His peer-reviewed articles appear in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, the *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Applied Economics Letters*, and the *Journal of Economic Integration*. Through the Convergent University Research Program, he is currently publishing on governance, trust, and analytical capacity in public and land-grant universities.

INTEGRATED 1890 LAND-GRANT LEADERSHIP

The land-grant university carries a threefold public mission. Dr. Whitesides has held senior executive responsibility in each of its three components, with the dates of that service shown below.

- **Teaching.** Academic affairs, faculty leadership, curriculum, accreditation, and student success. Chief Academic Officer since July 2026; led creation of the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences in 2021.
- **Research.** Sponsored programs, multidisciplinary scholarship, research administration, and compliance. Interim Vice President for Research, 2023 to 2026; 1890 Research Administrator, 2010 to 2019.
- **Public Engagement.** Cooperative Extension, public service, workforce and economic development, and community partnerships. Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture and Executive Director of the 1890 Research and Extension Program, 2019 to 2026; Senior Extension Director for Community and Economic Development, 2000 to 2009.
- **National Land-Grant Leadership.** Board of Directors, 1890 Universities Foundation; leadership roles with the Association of 1890 Research Directors, the Association of 1890 Extension Administrators, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Few higher education executives have held senior leadership responsibility across every dimension of the 1890 land-grant mission before becoming Chief Academic Officer. The 1890 Land-Grant University System comprises nineteen historically Black land-grant universities established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, and research administration, Extension, and academic affairs are ordinarily distinct career tracks within them. Dr. Whitesides has led all three, integrating academic affairs, research administration, Cooperative Extension, public service, and institutional governance into a comprehensive model of university leadership.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Whitesides leads by aligning mission with measurement. He treats resource development, governance discipline, and stakeholder engagement as a single system rather than separate functions, and he holds academic and administrative units to shared, published performance standards. His scholarship extends this practice: he studies how governance systems, institutional trust, and organizational capacity determine whether public universities sustain performance over time.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP METRICS

Strategic Resource Development

Category	Verified Outcome
Competitive external grants and contracts	\$65M+ secured, including a \$35M award — the largest single external award in institutional history
State appropriations	80% increase over four budget cycles, the highest increase among South Carolina state agencies
Capital investments	\$30M secured and deployed for research, extension, and academic facilities
State and partner resources	\$57M+ generated
Total resources secured	\$150M+ across grants, appropriations, partnerships, and capital

Institutional Performance Outcomes

Measure	Verified Outcome
Academic leadership scope	University-wide authority as Chief Academic Officer across all colleges, schools, faculty affairs, curriculum, accreditation, and academic budget
Annual portfolio stewardship	\$23M+ managed annually with zero audit findings
Four-year graduation rate	86% within a 150-student scholarship cohort
Post-graduation placement	94% employment or graduate school
Personnel led	Leads 307 faculty and staff across the academic enterprise. Led 180 faculty, staff, and students across research, extension, and public service

Facilities delivered	10 facilities, approximately 90,000 sq. ft., acquired, constructed, or renovated statewide
Research classification	Led institutional advancement to Carnegie R2 (High Research Activity) designation

EXECUTIVE PROFILE AT A GLANCE

Leadership Focus	Executive Experience	Strategic Expertise
- Academic Affairs - Faculty Affairs - Research Administration - Institutional Governance - Strategic Resource Development - Land-Grant Systems Leadership	- Chief Academic Officer - Cabinet Executive - Research Administrator - Cooperative Extension Executive - Public Service Leader	- Institutional Transformation - Research Capacity Building - Accreditation - Academic Planning - Student Success - Workforce Development

CURRENT EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs — Chief Academic Officer

South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC | July 2026 – Present

Serves as the University's Chief Academic Officer and direct report to the President. Fosters intellectual growth, student learning, and scholarly and creative activities by providing academic strategic planning, administrative leadership, direction, and evaluation for all academic activities and faculty affairs while advancing multidisciplinary scholarship.

- **Academic Leadership.** Directs colleges, schools, curriculum development, academic assessment, and program review.
- **Faculty Affairs.** Oversees recruitment, hiring, tenure, promotion, evaluation, workload policy, and faculty development.
- **Budget and Operations.** Provides executive leadership for academic budgeting, institutional planning, resource allocation, and academic policy implementation.
- **Student Success.** Leads retention initiatives, accreditation compliance, academic support services, and student success strategies.
- **University Research Enterprise.** Provides executive leadership for multidisciplinary research growth, scholarly productivity, and university research advancement.

PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC

Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture

Executive Director, 1890 Research and Extension Program

August 2019 – July 2026

Cabinet-level executive and direct report to the President with enterprise leadership across research, extension, public service, infrastructure, compliance, and external relations. Led 180 faculty, staff, and students and managed annual federal and state portfolios exceeding \$23 million.

Interim Vice President for Research

January 2023 – July 2026

Directed the university’s research enterprise, research compliance systems, and external funding strategy during the period in which the institution advanced to R2 Carnegie classification.

1890 Research Administrator

2010 – 2019

- Directed strategic planning, budgeting, and operations for the 1890 research enterprise.
- Oversaw Evans-Allen capacity funds and state appropriations under federal compliance requirements.
- Served as principal liaison to USDA-NIFA, Clemson University, and national 1890 organizations.

Senior Extension Director, Community and Economic Development

2000 – 2009

- Led statewide community and economic development programming.
- Managed satellite centers, staff, and budgets while coordinating legislative outreach.
- Built partnerships with state agencies, industry leaders, and community stakeholders.

CORE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

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|---|--|
| • Chief Academic Officer Leadership | • Faculty Affairs, Tenure and Promotion |
| • Curriculum, Assessment and Program Review | • Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness |
| • Presidential and Cabinet Leadership | • Student Success, Retention and Completion |
| • Research Enterprise and Land-Grant Leadership | • Academic Budgeting and Resource Allocation |
| • Legislative Relations and Public Accountability | • Fiscal Stewardship, Compliance and Audit Integrity |
| • Workforce and Economic Development | • Infrastructure and Capital Project Oversight |
| • Data Systems and Performance Management | • USDA-NIFA Relations and Federal Compliance |
| • Board Relations and Stakeholder Engagement | • Strategic Planning and Organizational Development |

SELECTED EXECUTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Academic and Institutional Transformation

- Led creation of the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, aligning academic programs with agribusiness, the largest industry in South Carolina.
- Directed university-wide culture change aligning academic units, compliance, finance, and administration around published performance standards.
- Led expansion of the research and extension enterprise, contributing to the growth in federal expenditures that supported advancement to R2 Carnegie classification.
- Strengthened research governance, faculty competitiveness, interdisciplinary collaboration, and compliance integrity.

Student Success, Social Mobility, and Workforce Outcomes

- Designed and scaled retention and completion models that produced an 86 percent four-year graduation rate within a 150-student scholarship cohort, well above the institutional baseline.
- Achieved a 94 percent placement rate into employment or graduate school.
- Launched and scaled the Agriculture Innovation Scholarship Program, awarding \$5.8 million in full scholarships with mentoring and experiential learning for more than 150 students.

Resource Growth, Fiscal Stewardship, and Accountability

- Managed annual federal and state portfolios exceeding \$23 million with zero audit findings.
- Secured more than \$65 million in new external grants and contracts, including a \$35 million award, the largest single external award in institutional history.
- Generated more than \$57 million in additional state and partner resources.
- Increased state appropriations by 80 percent across four budget cycles, the highest increase among state agencies.

Infrastructure and Capacity Building

- Directed acquisition, construction, and renovation of 10 facilities totaling approximately 90,000 square feet statewide.
- Completed a comprehensive 1890 facilities master plan and long-range infrastructure strategy.
- Secured and deployed \$30 million in capital funding to modernize research, extension, and academic facilities.
- Implemented Salesforce-based data systems to improve reporting accuracy, compliance tracking, and executive decision-making.

BOARD, GOVERNANCE, AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Board and Executive Committee Member

- South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)
- Battelle Savannah River National Alliance
- South Carolina EPSCoR
- South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
- Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC)
- Palmetto Advocates for Agriculture

National Association Leadership

- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Association of 1890 Research Directors
- Association of 1890 Extension Administrators

EDUCATION AND EXECUTIVE PREPARATION

Academic Degrees

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), International Business

Argosy University. Doctoral concentration in international economics, quantitative statistical methods, and applied research methodologies.

Master of Science (MS), Management — Southern Wesleyan University

Bachelor of Science (BS), Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics — South Carolina State University

Certified Research Administrator (CRA) - Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC)

Executive and Leadership Education

- Harvard University — Executive Certificate in Higher Education Leadership
- Cornell University — Executive Leadership Certificate
- Temple University, Harrisburg — Certificate in Fundraising
- Association of Governing Boards (AGB)—Institute for Leadership and Governance in Higher Education, Class of 2026–27

SCHOLARLY IMPACT AND RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Dr. Whitesides is a scholar-practitioner whose research and executive practice inform one another. His published work applies gravity models, panel econometrics, and switching regression methods to questions in agricultural economics and international trade: how regional trade agreements and exchange rate volatility shape commodity flows, how food safety standards and maximum residue limits function as non-tariff barriers, and what harmonization would mean for state-level agricultural exports. This work sits directly alongside his responsibility for a land-grant research and extension enterprise serving South Carolina agriculture.

His current research turns the same analytical discipline on the university itself. Through the Convergent University Research Program, through collaboration, he has publicly distributed working papers on institutional trust as strategic capacity in public land-grant HBCUs and on the construction of an Institutional Trust Index for public and land-grant universities. The aim is to make trust measurable and manageable rather than treating it as an abstraction. Across both streams of his work, the through-line is institutional performance under resource constraint and public accountability.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Listed in APA 7 format, most recent first. Each entry below was verified against the publisher of record or an independent bibliographic index.

Karemera, D., Xiong, B., Smalls, G., & Whitesides, L. (2022). The political economy of maximum residue limits: A long-term health perspective. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 73(3), 709–719. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-9552.12476>

Karemera, D., N'Dede, C., Smalls, G. H., & Whitesides, L. (2021). Assessing trade benefits of a TTIP and the role of regional trade free blocks on South Carolina agricultural exports: A static and dynamic gravity model approach. *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics*, 9(4), 245–261.

Karemera, D., Xiong, B., & Whitesides, L. (2020). A state-level analysis of the impact of a U.S.–EU harmonization of food safety standards on U.S. exports of fruits and vegetables. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 42(4), 856–869. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aep/pz014>

Karemera, D., Whitesides, L., & Smalls, G. (2017). The impacts of regional free trade agreements and exchange rate volatility on world vegetable and fruit trade flows. *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics*, 5(4), 25–39.

Karemera, D., Koo, W., Smalls, G., & Whiteside, L. (2015). Trade creation, diversion effects and exchange rate volatility in the global meat trade. *Journal of Economic Integration*, 30(2), 240–268.

Davis, B., Karemera, D., & Whitesides, L. (2013). The intertemporal stability of the US money demand function: New evidence from switching regressions. *Applied Economics Letters*, 20(6), 581–586. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2012.720006>

Hamidi, N., Tebyanian, F., Massoudi, R., & Whitesides, L. (2013). Pyrolysis of household plastic wastes. *British Journal of Applied Science & Technology*, 3(3), 417–439. <https://doi.org/10.9734/BJAST/2014/1984>

Karemera, D., Guah, M., Smalls, G., & Whitesides, L. (n.d.). A re-examination of the benefits of trade agreements on agricultural exports and the impact of the 2008 Great Recession. *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics*.

Publicly Distributed Working Papers (SSRN)

Convergent University Research Program, with Jermaine E. Whiteside.

Whiteside, J. E., & Whitesides, L. D. (2026). *Beyond funding formulas: Institutional trust as strategic capacity in public land-grant HBCUs*. SSRN Working Paper. Abstract ID: 6969498. Publicly distributed.

Whiteside, J. E., & Whitesides, L. D. (2026). *Institutional trust as a strategic asset: Developing the Institutional Trust Index (ITI) for public and land-grant universities*. SSRN Working Paper. Abstract ID: 6942998. Publicly distributed.

SSRN working papers are publicly distributed scholarly manuscripts intended to advance academic discussion prior to or alongside formal journal publication. They are distinct from peer-reviewed publications.

Working Papers in Development

Whiteside, J. E., & Whitesides, L. D. (n.d.). *The convergent university: A conceptual framework for constituent alignment, analytical capacity, and trust production* [Manuscript in development].

Selected Research Programs

Dr. Whitesides organizes his scholarship around sustained research programs rather than isolated publications. Each of the following represents a continuing line of inquiry with multiple associated works.

- **Agricultural Economics and International Trade.** Gravity-model and panel-econometric analysis of regional trade agreements, exchange rate volatility, and commodity flows. Four peer-reviewed articles.
- **Food Safety Standards and Non-Tariff Barriers.** Maximum residue limits and U.S.–EU harmonization as determinants of agricultural export capacity. Two peer-reviewed articles, in *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* and the *Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
- **Institutional Trust and Governance.** Measurement of institutional trust as strategic capacity in public and land-grant universities, including development of the Institutional Trust Index.
- **Land-Grant University Leadership.** Funding structures, capacity, and organizational performance in the 1890 land-grant system.
- **Higher Education Administration and Organizational Performance.** Governance systems, analytical capacity, and constituent alignment in public universities.
- **Convergent University Research Program (collaborative).** Ongoing program with Jermaine E. Whiteside producing the institutional trust and governance scholarship listed above.

Research Leadership

- Provided executive leadership for the university research enterprise, including compliance systems and external funding strategy, from 2023 to 2026.
- Contributed to the institutional growth in research activity and federal expenditures that supported advancement to Carnegie R2 classification.
- Mentored faculty, staff, and students in grant acquisition, research administration, and professional advancement.
- Built research capacity through facilities investment, data systems, and interdisciplinary collaboration across colleges.
- Served as principal institutional liaison to USDA-NIFA and national 1890 research and extension organizations.
- Advanced multidisciplinary scholarship connecting agriculture, STEM, economics, and community development.

PUBLIC SERVICE, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CASA Family Systems

Chairman, Board of Directors

Provides board governance for a nonprofit serving family development and survivors of sexual assault and family violence across South Carolina.

1904 Society

Founder and Mentor

Founded and leads a long-term mentoring program for young Black men, sustaining relationships from middle school through college completion.

- 21 young men mentored
- Mentorship sustained from seventh grade through college
- 100 percent college enrollment
- One early graduate

Orangeburg Express Youth Basketball Organization / Xpress Grassroots Sports, Inc.

Founder and Executive Director

April 30, 2008 – December 2025

Founder-built, multi-team youth basketball organization serving as a youth leadership, mentoring, positive exposure and community engagement initiative in Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg Counties.

- More than 10 years of continuous organizational leadership
- Up to 10 teams operated
- 300+ youth served

Orangeburg Rotary Club

Member

Additional Public Service

- Legislative advocacy for land-grant funding and rural economic development in South Carolina.
- Sustained engagement with community and economic development initiatives statewide.
- Mentorship of faculty, staff, and students in agriculture, STEM, and leadership development.