

Our Antioch University BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MAY 2017

CAROLE ISOM-BARNES, PhD



Carole Isom-Barnes joined the Board of Governors in October 2013. Carole holds a PhD in Leadership & Change from Antioch University and an MA in Organizational Communication. She is also Six Sigma certified in process management and performance improvement.

1 What drew you to serve on the Antioch University Board of Governors? What makes you most proud?

I was drawn to serve on the Board after completing Antioch University's PhD in Leadership and Change Program. I believed in the program, the method of teaching, and the overall mission and values of the University. I was proud to be associated with Antioch University and wanted not only my degree to represent the University, but also my service.

I see my contribution as an opportunity to have input on the sustainability and success of all that is important to the institution and the students. I am most proud that all the Board members genuinely care and are committed to the success of Antioch University as a learner-centered institution.

2 What contributions do you feel you bring as a Board member to lead Antioch University? As the Board Chair?

Notwithstanding my strong Fortune 100 and financial leadership background, I can relate to the interests and needs of current-day students. Education is changing at a rapid pace and must keep up with the needs and interests of those seeking higher education, which also is changing. Having recently completed the PhD program, I can say that all the financial concerns, the balance of family, career and school, and wondering if it will be worth it in the end, are still fresh. As decisions are made on the Board, I bring a holistic perspective, three-fourths of which supports not only fiduciary business decisions, but also supports the viewpoint of students who want degree offerings and programs that have quality teachers, are worthy of the expense and commitment, and enable career and personal growth.

3 What has your experience been on the Board to date? Have there been any surprises you'd like to share?

I have been on the Board for four years and my experience has been extremely positive. I was most surprised by the number of Board members who have some connection to Antioch University, in one way or another, prior to joining the Board. Some members attended the University as undergraduate students years ago, while others have had more engagement via volunteerism or leadership opportunities. I think this is important because it speaks to the level of commitment and loyalty to the University and what it stands for.

4 If I were to interview you five years from now, what would you like to be able to say about...

a. Antioch University?

I would like to say the Board members were visionaries and ahead of changes in the teaching and learning process, and Antioch University was creative and innovative in meeting student and workforce needs.

b. Your role as a BoG member?

I would like to say I am more proud than I was in 2017 to be a graduate and Board member of such a fine institution. I would also like to say the University is stronger, more diverse, and each year we improved upon helping more students realize their potential and growth.

5 What would you like our readers to know that they might not learn from your brief biography?

I am passionate about education and I consider helping others reach their potential as my life's purpose.

Carole Isom-Barnes, PhD, president of Xperience Leadership, LLC, is an organizational change consultant with over 30 years of Fortune 100 senior leadership experience in human resources, operations, risk, and strategic planning management. She is a former Bank of America senior leader and has done extensive research on organizational change at the practitioner and educational levels.

Carole is also an adjunct faculty member at Queens University in Charlotte, NC, teaching graduate and undergraduate organizational communication courses. She is a communications and business school lecturer and frequent speaker and panelist at academic and professional events. She presents on topics such as organizational leadership, social and economic disparities, and race and gender issues.

Carole serves on the Antioch University Board of Governors, the Carolinas College and Health Sciences Board of Directors, and the Mecklenburg County Human Resources Advisory Board. She is a member of the International Leadership Association (ILA), the National Communication Association (NCA), and Women Executives of Charlotte (WE).

She also serves as a mentor and university coordinator for Women Initiating and Nurturing Growth through Scholarship (WINGS), a life-changing mentor and scholarship program for non-traditional female students at Charlotte, N.C. area universities.

She is the author of *Layoff: American Dream Interrupted*, capturing three-years of corporate research and *Unemployment Disparities: Employee Insight and Personal Perspectives*, a publication in collaboration with the Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc.



BILL PLATER, PhD

Bill Plater joined the Antioch University Board of Governors in 2015.

1 What drew you to serve on the Antioch University Board of Governors? What makes you most proud?

Antioch University has always held a special place in my appreciation for leadership and innovation in higher education—a place of experimentation, certainly, but also a principled community of people held together by strong values centered on social justice and equity. I have been a follower of Antioch University for well over 40 years, having made a visit to Antioch College to observe its work-study program in the 1970s. Several decades later, I worked with Al Guskin as a board member of the

Council on Adult and Experiential Learning, as well as on the Project on the Future of Higher Education. About six years ago, I participated in a review of the PhD in Leadership and Change and found it to be one of the most innovative and exciting programs I've observed in recent years. This renewed my admiration and interest in Antioch University.

I again paid close attention to the evolving nature of Antioch University as a multi-campus university serving, principally, adults in an era of heightened electronic interaction when Felice Nudelman became Chancellor. I worked with Felice on the American Democracy Project when she was at *The New York Times*, and then served as a member of the advisory committee of an education technology company owned by the *NYT*.

So, in brief, I have had a long relationship with Antioch University, but always at a distance. I was pleased to accept the invitation to join the Board in 2015 because of the opportunity to give back something to a university that has played an important role in my own evolving understanding of how education changes society for the better through the students it engages. The role of education in enhancing the global public good has assumed an even larger place in my work and the alignment of this commitment with the mission of Antioch University seemed propitious.

2 What contributions do you feel you bring as a Board member to lead Antioch University?

I have been employed full time in higher education since the late 1960s, including helping to create and direct both an experimental living-learning program and an individualized major at the University of Illinois, as well as serving as chief academic officer for about 20 years at Indiana University. I have been fortunate to be involved in a number of innovations in higher education, such as the development of graduate humanities programs focused on applied careers, the creation of the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, the institutional assessment through electronic portfolios, the use of technology in enhancing learning, and the globalization of higher education. Many of these experiences are relevant to Antioch University's transition as it adapts to a rapidly changing set of social and economic conditions. In addition, my insider's close following of Antioch University as a change agent for postsecondary education gives me a sense of the University's historic role as a sector change agent.

3 What has your experience been on the Board to date? Have there been any surprises you'd like to share?

Over the years, I have served on a number of boards, but none has been as individually and collectively talented as the Antioch University Board. The commitment of these distinguished colleagues to the successful transition of Antioch University has been an inspiration and a joy. Along with the faculty, staff, campus leaders, and community-based supporters of the Antioch University campuses and programs, the Board is engaged in an urgent challenge to sustain and develop the University during a time of enrollment and financial challenges—not unlike those affecting many small non-profit colleges and universities across the nation.

I have been surprised by the speed of change that is required and by the corresponding resolve and expertise being brought to the response. Having been on both sides of the governance divide as faculty and campus-level administrator, on one hand, and now as a Board member on the other, I can say that I suspect few faculty and staff really understand the tremendous love and commitment that the Board members bring to sustaining Antioch University as a national treasure. This level of respect, deep personal engagement, and determination is a surprise to me—and I think it would surprise many who know the Board only as a distant body that meets on occasion far from the community of students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are Antioch University.

4 If I were to interview you five years from now, what would you like to be able to say about...

a. Antioch University?

That Antioch University has not only endured but once again claimed its role as a leader in educational innovation and adaptation to a new economic and social order—all while preserving a special commitment to social equity and justice for the global common good. It has found the way to honor and support unique individuals in their learning objectives while prospering in a world where massification, standardization, and efficiency have stripped many institutions of their individuality and personality.

b. Your role as a BoG member?

As a witness, I have learned more deeply the value of persistence, commitment to ideals, and innovation in social transformation as leaders from all segments of the university have risen to the challenges. As a participant, I have contributed my experiences to the collective efforts of many in renewing Antioch University's special position in society. I would like to report to others that the Antioch University community has found its common purpose and acted in concert as a single, unified force across all of its stakeholders.

5 What would you like our readers to know that they might not learn from your brief biography?

I can't think of anything—I'm not an especially interesting person, even to my own family!

William M. Plater, PhD, currently serves as research director for Community Engagement and Civic Learning for the Global Common Good at Laureate Education, Inc., a global network of more than 70 campus-based and online universities in 25 countries, and as senior scholar at The Quality Assurance Commons for Postsecondary and Higher Education. Most recently, Bill served as executive vice chancellor and dean of the faculties emeritus at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Indiana University Chancellor's professor emeritus of Public Affairs, Philanthropic Studies, and English.

Bill is the author of numerous articles, essays, policy papers, and book chapters on higher education, as well as a full-length book on the fiction of Thomas Pynchon; he has edited books and special journal issues on higher education and the public good in both national and international contexts; and he has delivered many key note addresses, speeches, and panel presentations on innovations in higher education at national and international venues.

In 2006, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities established the William M. Plater Award for Civic Engagement, the first national award of any kind to recognize provosts. Students graduating from IUPUI—from BAs to PhDs—with outstanding civic engagement records are awarded the Plater Medallion for Civic Engagement. IUPUI also established the Plater International Scholarship Program in 2006, providing an annual cohort of entering undergraduates a four-year tuition scholarship, residency in International House and a study abroad opportunity. The Plater Institute on the Future of Higher Education at IUPUI is an annual event open to central Indiana educators for exploring significant issues in higher education that will influence the future of learning. In 2006, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels awarded Bill the Sagamore of the Wabash, the state's highest civilian honor. Bill has also been awarded honorary doctorates by Purdue University and the National Institute of Development Administration in Thailand.

Bill currently serves as a member of the advisory boards for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, the IU Center on Global Health, the Greater Indianapolis Red Cross, the Board of Governors of Antioch University, and the Executive Council of Kappa Delta Pi.

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