

Biography

Dr. Lonnie L. Howard



The son of a SE Texas sharecropper, Lonnie was born in a 4-room shack with no indoor plumbing. Placed in remedial classes and not viewed as college material, he had few options after high school. Due to his love of country, he joined the US Army. After his honorable discharge, Lonnie's first job was as a janitor in an industrial shop. Life continued to be hard. He had no reliable transportation, almost homeless, and only ate a half can of 'sweet peas' in the morning and the other half that evening.

Overcoming these challenges, Lonnie progressed from janitor to become a certified welder, computer-aided drafter, and then moved into HR/staffing. Still struggling to earn a degree, he did not graduate with an associate until age 36. But less than 12 years later, he had five college degrees: AAS, AGS, BS, MS, and PhD (University of Texas). Dr. Howard also completed training in strategic business management (Harvard University) and emerging online leadership (Penn State University).

To inspire others, Dr. Howard says:

"My mother was right; it doesn't really matter where you start from. With hard work, integrity, and education, anyone can achieve some measure of the American Dream."

Dr. Howard has had rapid career progression serving in key teaching/leadership positions ranging from Faculty to College President. In fact, having remarkable success, this is his second college presidency. He was first President at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Washington (near Seattle) and now is the President of Lamar Institute of Technology, which is a member of the Texas State University System.

As a single parent, Lonnie adopted a toddler that was sold for drugs at 3-weeks old. Now age 25, his son (Matthew) is completing a PhD in English Language and Literature.