

Honorary Doctorate in Leadership

Celebrating the Journey and Legacy of Dr. Cedric J. Harris



Purpose of the Honorary Doctorate in Leadership

Recognizing Transformational Leadership

The Honorary Doctorate in Leadership is awarded to individuals whose life work demonstrates exceptional leadership, resilience, and contributions to society. This recognition celebrates individuals who embody the principles of service, mentorship, innovation, and positive influence within their communities and professions.

Dr. Cedric J. Harris exemplifies these qualities through a remarkable life journey spanning athletics, education, mentorship, and community development. Born on the Caribbean island of Dominica, his early life was shaped by perseverance, discipline, and strong family values. Growing up in a modest household, he learned the importance of hard work, resilience, and character.

Despite limited resources and training facilities, Dr. Harris developed an early passion for athletics. Through dedication and determination, he advanced from training on basic fields in Dominica to competing internationally. His journey reflects the essence of leadership: the ability to persevere, overcome challenges, and inspire others through example.

The honorary doctorate recognizes individuals whose achievements extend beyond personal success to create opportunities and inspiration for others.

Leadership Through Excellence and Perseverance

Dr. Harris's journey continued when he received an athletic scholarship to study and train in the United States. During his academic and athletic career, he earned an **Associate of Arts (AA)**, a **Bachelor's Degree**, and later a **Master's Degree in Sports Science**. These academic achievements reflect his commitment to balancing education with elite athletic performance.

In addition to his university degrees, Dr. Harris earned a prestigious **Level 5 Coaching Certification** and the **OLY designation**, a global recognition awarded to Olympians that qualifies him to lecture and teach coaching internationally. These credentials place him among a distinguished group of professionals capable of educating and developing athletes and coaches around the world.

Dr. Harris represented Dominica in the **1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia**, competing in the 800-meter event. His participation marked a historic milestone for his nation and demonstrated that athletes from small island countries can compete on the world stage.

His Olympic journey symbolized perseverance, national pride, and the power of believing in one's dreams.

Continuing Impact and Leadership Legacy

Legacy of Service, Mentorship, and Global Impact

Following his Olympic career, Dr. Harris devoted his life to mentoring and developing the next generation of athletes and leaders. He founded the **Pioneers Athletics Club** in Dominica to train and support young athletes while emphasizing both athletic excellence and academic achievement.

As a coach, educator, and international lecturer, Dr. Harris continues to share his knowledge of sport science, coaching methodology, and athlete development with students and coaches around the world. His leadership philosophy emphasizes discipline, education, and perseverance as the foundation for long-term success.

The Honorary Doctorate in Leadership recognizes this legacy of service. It celebrates individuals whose lives demonstrate dedication to uplifting others, strengthening communities, and inspiring future generations.

Dr. Cedric J. Harris's journey—from a young athlete in Dominica to Olympian, scholar, educator, and mentor—stands as a powerful example of how determination, education, and service can create lasting impact across generations.