

## Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough

Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough is the 12th president of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Known as the Hip Hop president, he is one of the youngest college presidents in the nation. Prior to Philander Smith College, he served in administrative capacities at Albany State University, Old Dominion University, Georgia State University and Emory University.

After graduating from the Benjamin E. Mays High School and Academy of Math and Science in Atlanta as the Salutatorian and Student Body President, Dr. Kimbrough earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree in biology from the University of Georgia in 1989. He continued his education at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, completing a Master of Science Degree in College Student Personnel Services in 1991, and in 1996 he earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Higher Education from Georgia State University.

Dr. Kimbrough has maintained active memberships in several higher education organizations, including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) and Brothers of the Academy (BOTA). He presently serves as chair of the archives, history, and public information committee of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and is a past member of the board of directors.

A 1986 initiate of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at the University of Georgia, Kimbrough was the Alpha Phi Alpha College Brother of the Year for the Southern Region and served as the Southern Region Assistant Vice President. Based on his strong fraternity experience, Dr. Kimbrough has forged a national reputation as an expert on fraternities and sororities, with specific expertise regarding historically Black, Latin and Asian groups. Dr. Kimbrough has given over 500 presentations on fraternalism life at numerous campuses and conferences. He is the author of the book, *Black Greek 101: The Culture, Customs and Challenges of Black Fraternities and Sororities*. After five months, the book was an *Essence* magazine top 10 best seller, and is currently in its tenth printing.

Kimbrough has been recognized for his research and writings on HBCUs and African American men in college, including the creation of the Black Male Initiative at Philander Smith College that has been a model for similar programs. Kimbrough also has been noted for his active use of social media to engage students in articles by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *CASE Currents*, and *Arkansas Life*. He was cited in 2010 by Bachelors Degree.com as one of 25 college presidents you should follow on Twitter (@HipHopPrez).

Locally, he is a member of the board of directors for the Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation. He was named one of the people who made a difference in Arkansas in 2005 by the *Arkansas Times* newspaper, named by *Powerplay* magazine in 2006 as one of the 25 influential African Americans in Arkansas, and listed by *Arkansas Business* as one of 40 under 40 in 2006. In 2007 *SYNC Weekly* included him as one of central Arkansas's most notable residents, and *Garden & Gun* magazine in 2010 named him as one of five "rock climbers," residents who prove Little Rock has plenty to brag about.

Dr. Kimbrough was named the 1994 New Professional of the Year for the Association of Fraternity Advisors, and the 1998 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Dissertation of the Year award runner-up. He was selected as a 2001 Nissan-ETS HBCU Fellow, and a 2002 participant in the Millennium Leadership Initiative sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. In 2009, he was named by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* as one of 25 To Watch. Finally, in 2010, he made the coveted *Ebony Magazine* Power list of the 100 doers and influencers in the African American community, joining the likes of President and Mrs. Obama, Jay-Z, Richard Parsons, Tyler Perry, Debra Lee, Michael Jordan, and Tom Joyner.

Dr. Kimbrough and his wife Adria Nobles Kimbrough, associate general counsel with the University of Arkansas System, are the proud parents of two children: Lydia Nicole, 5, and Benjamin Barack, 2. He is the son of Rev. Walter L. Kimbrough, pastor emeritus of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, and Marjorie L. Kimbrough, author and lecturer. He has one brother, Wayne.