



Dr. Chris Howard is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of ASU. Howard works closely with President Crow and the other executive vice presidents to coordinate enterprise-wide initiatives, technology, and advancement and oversee ASU Enterprise planning and strategy.

He is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and earned a doctorate in politics as a Rhodes Scholar from the University of Oxford. He also has an MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School, and in 2018, received the school's Alumni Achievement Award. In 2024, he received the inaugural Leadership Achievement Award from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Howard's service to his country began as a helicopter pilot, then as an intelligence officer, where he was assigned to the elite Joint Special Operations Command. He served in Afghanistan in the Air Force Reserve and was awarded the Bronze Star. Howard concluded his career as a Reserve Military Attaché to Liberia, Africa.

As a member of the Aspen Strategy Group, Howard co-edited a report entitled '[Re-Engineering American Security: Cultivating Talent for Competitiveness](#)'. Howard unveiled the report's key findings during the 2023 [Aspen Security Forum](#), sharing a panel with former Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

Previously, Howard served as the eighth president of Robert Morris University, a nationally ranked doctoral-granting university in suburban Pittsburgh.

Before serving at RMU, Howard was President of Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.

Howard also served as vice president for Leadership & Strategic Initiatives at the University of Oklahoma. Previously, he worked in General Electric's Corporate Initiatives Group and Bristol-Myers Squibb's Corporate Associates Program. Howard served on the National Security Education Board, appointed by President Barack Obama.

He is a trustee on the Harvard University Board of Overseers and also serves on the Board of Directors of AvalonBay Communities. Howard is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Young Presidents Organization, the Trilateral Commission, and Sigma Pi Phi, the oldest African-American fraternity in the United States.

Howard won the Campbell Trophy, the nation's highest academic award for a senior college football player. He also is a member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and a former member of the College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

Howard is the founder and a trustee emeritus of the Impact Young Lives Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports South African youth. He is also a board member of The Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall and the Barrow Neurological Institute Foundation.

His wife, Barbara Noble Howard, serves as an Arizona State University Fellow for nonprofit leadership. She also serves on several philanthropic boards and hails from South Africa. They have two adult sons, Cohen and Joshua.