

## **Dr. Joseph Ray**

Dr. Joseph Ray is Acting Director, Office of Counseling and Career Placement Services at Allen University. He has spent thirty-three years working as a human services executive in the fields of alcohol and drug abuse, public housing, and vocational rehabilitation counseling. Dr. Ray has held the academic rank of Associate Professor at Trident International University and is the former Academic Program Director for Claflin University's satellite campus at Fort Jackson. Additionally, he has taught as an adjunct professor at Springfield College (Springfield, MA), USC, Benedict College, Southern Wesleyan University, Webster University, Voorhees College, and Grand Canyon University. Dr. Ray's area of specialty are organizational management, organizational development, leadership development, leadership ethics, and team building.

In 2003 and 2005, Dr. Ray received the "Excellence in Teaching Award" from Southern Wesleyan University's Graduate School. He has also taught at the graduate level at Springfield College, Trident International University, and Webster University. He is a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American Psychological Association (APA), the Society for Diversity, and the South Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers (SCACE).

He received both the B.S. Degree in Psychology and the M. A. Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State University; and the Doctor of Philosophy in Human Services Administration with a concentration in Organizational Management from Union Institute and University.

He is deeply committed to eradicating hunger and homelessness in the Columbia area. Dr. Ray started the first food pantry at Allen University in April of 2019. It was started to address the growing problem of food insecurity on college campuses. In its 14 months of operation, the AU Food Pantry has provided over 2,800 food bags to students on campus. Dr. Ray is also a member of the College Food Insecurity Subcommittee which is comprised of five institutions of Higher Learning: Columbia College, Allen University, Benedict College, University of South Carolina Undergraduate, and University of South Carolina School of Law.

He is also an avid supporter of Fresh Start Ministry, a nonprofit which provides a feeding program, laundry services, housing assistance, and a wide array of other social services to individuals who are homeless or from low-income communities. During his 28 years in the field of vocational rehabilitation at the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, Dr. Ray placed hundreds of blind and visually impaired individuals in high paying jobs. He also held several key executive level positions at SCCB including Interim Commissioner.