

DR. CHARLES A. WEST

Research Consultant

Dr. Charles A. West believes that a more innovative integration of economic development, workforce development and entrepreneurship could profoundly impact individuals and communities across this country. He is ecstatic to be a part of The DeBruce Foundation team that is committed to tackling the same issues that are dear to him.



Dr. West is a catalyst for economic development optimization because of his multifaceted experiences. From the halls of academe, he earned a Bachelor's in accounting; a Master's in finance; and Ph.D. in entrepreneurship. He honed his experiential base in the laboratories of the streets where he managed economic development and workforce development programs. After leaving, Dr. West served as an economic development consultant to federal and state agencies as well as nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Dr. West exposed young minds to entrepreneurship and was challenged to demonstrate the efficacy of his teachings while a college professor. Partially as a result, he spent several years heading a management group that bought, grew, and sold franchises. Afterward, Dr. West began the journey of integrating his knowledge and experiences into the most successful training program for entrepreneurs in the country. The program served several thousand individuals and had a sizeable economic impact.

Dr. West has authored or coauthored books in each chapter of his life to provide learning experiences for others. These books include *Secrets of the Gig Gurus: A Toolkit for the Freelance Gig Economy*, *LESSONS*. (A contemporary African American novel), *How to Understand and Secure a Surety Construction Bond*, *Tonight You Can Be in Business for Yourself*, and *Black Enterprise, Inc.: Case Studies of a New Experiment*.