The Charlotte Catalyst initiative was created to spotlight minority leaders making an indelible mark on their organizations and the Charlotte community at large. The esteemed urban professionals in these pages were selected because of their work in diversity and philanthropy as well as being positive role models.

The list contains 14 inspiring men and women from top corporations and organizations. The Charlotte Catalyst honorees understand that true success is not achieved by individual efforts but by pooling the intelligence and insights from the diverse individuals around them. They also recognize success in life is not only measured by personal achievement or status, but also by their contributions to creating a better Charlotte for everyone to enjoy.

These leaders personify Charlotte. As the 18th largest city in the United States, the Queen City is a cornucopia of ethnicities, cultures and nationalities. A significant one-third of the population is African American and almost 12 percent Hispanic. With these stats, it’s not surprising that Charlotte features a rich arts community, eclectic restaurants and a wide-range of entertainment options. Charlotte is home to NASCAR, the 2012 Democratic Convention, 326 Fortune 500 companies with offices in the region, nine of which are headquarters, and over 800 international companies. Charlotte is a global city on the move.

UPTOWN would like to congratulate this year’s class of Charlotte Catalysts and hope you will enjoy learning more about and from these dedicated and insightful individuals who are working tirelessly to improve their organizations, communities and the lives of those around them.
ABOUT DR. CARTER

Dr. Ronald L. Carter, a native of High Point, N.C., became the 13th president of Johnson C. Smith University on July 1, 2008. Upon graduating magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and philosophy from Morehouse College in 1971, Dr. Carter began his distinguished career at Boston University’s Martin Luther King Jr. Center, where by 1981, he rose to become the school’s youngest dean of students. While at Boston University, Dr. Carter pursued graduate studies, earning both a Master of Theology degree and a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion. In the late 1980s, Dr. Carter’s interaction with relatives of Nelson Mandela compelled him to put his abilities to work in South Africa.

Among his many honors and awards, Dr. Carter was appointed a Sloan Scholar at Morehouse College, a Danforth Fellow at Boston University, and a Merrill Scholar, Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey. He was a senior fellow at the Stedman Graham Leadership Institute of Chicago, and nominated by South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges to serve as a member of the John De La Howe School Board of Trustees. In 2010, he received the Newcomer of the Year Award from Leadership Charlotte.

Ronald L. Carter, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT, JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY

Johnson C. Smith University
Charlottesville's Premier Independent Urban University

would like to congratulate Dr. Ronald Carter for his recognition and significant contributions as a Charlotte Catalyst.