

Derrick V. Warren – Biography

Growing up in a small, close-knit community in Bastrop, Louisiana, taught Derrick Warren the importance of relationships and results.

“From a young age, I understood that education was key and that you can learn something from everyone you meet,” he said. Now, this self-described “Global Life Learner” drives positive transformation for the Southern University System utilizing engagement, analytic research, science, strong communication strategies and innovation.

This analytic research, grounded in technology/Big Data, unlocks new possibilities that Warren said will help Southern and Southerns’ stakeholders rapidly succeed, thus leading to more informed, predictive and accurate decisions. Warren advises alumni on the University, targeted initiatives, new ways of working, speed to market concepts and creative strategies to differentiate themselves in today’s highly competitive marketplace resulting in accelerated business value and growth. His specialty is stakeholder engagement, services productization and helping Southern alumni, administration, faculty, staff, students and stakeholders tap into leading practices, techniques and talent.

Over the course of his 32-plus year corporate career at IBM, Warren was responsible for the overall client satisfaction, financials, and delivery execution of large accounts ranging in size from several hundred million to multi-billions in total contract value. This included developing compelling value propositions, creating innovative tactical/strategic plans, executing the roadmaps for effective execution, resolving complex escalated issues/disputes as well as guiding the participation of all IBM Lines of Business. He also served as a member of the IBM Technical Leadership Team and was featured in the company’s “On Demand” Thinker Ad Campaign which appeared globally in business publications including Time Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Business Week, The Economist, Money Magazine, Barron’s, CIO, CFO as well as other international business publications.

In recent years, Warren achieved success living abroad leading teams that provided complex technology solutions for corporations in Asia Pacific and Africa including Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, South Africa, Nigeria and other countries across Africa and The Middle East. While overseas, he established IBM’s Project Executive Competency improved certifications by more than 300%, rapidly drove positive double digit growth C-Suite references and engineered a marked enhancement to client satisfaction year to year. He has also published articles in industry magazines and is an accomplished speaker at business symposiums, conferences, and universities around the world.

Warren is a cum laude honor graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. While on campus, he served as Student Government Association President, Junior Class President and a member of the University’s Famed “Human Jukebox” Marching Band. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Kappa Phi Kappa Fraternity and a Charter member of the John G. Lewis Masonic Lodge.

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Warren was also honored to deliver Southern's Fall 2011 Commencement Address. He earned an MBA from the University of South Florida in Tampa as part of the school's Executive MBA Program. He and his wife, Anita, currently reside in Roswell, Georgia. They are the proud parents of two sons, Derrick II and Dillon, daughter, Dhalyn, and granddaughter Emersyn.