

LeRoy Tashreau Walker

Doctor of Laws

LeRoy Walker has brought the highest honors to himself, to North Carolina, and to our nation through the medium of sport at the national and international level. He has been an active and influential member of the United States Olympic Committee for more than thirty years. As its twenty-second president, and the first African American to head the Olympic Committee, LeRoy Walker was instrumental in bringing the Centennial Olympic Games to Atlanta. The grandson of slaves, Walker was the first in his family to attend college, earning a bachelor's degree from Benedict College, a master's degree from Columbia University, and a doctorate from New York University. Although he began his sports career as a football coach, he made his mark on history as a track coach. He trained and mentored seventy-seven All-Americans, forty national champions, and eight Olympic medalists. He sent track and field athletes to every Olympic games from 1956 to 1980. He served as chancellor of our sister institution, North Carolina Central University, from 1983 until 1986. In the early years of this decade he served with William Friday on the Knight Commission, advocating reform in intercollegiate sports. Doctor Walker has been honored with the highest awards given by the International Olympic Committee. He has been recognized many times over for a lifetime full of accomplishment, and to those many honors this University now adds the degree of Doctor of Laws.