



## George Pruitt, chairman of the board

George A. Pruitt became chairman of the Seedco board in the fall of 2008. Dr. Pruitt has been President of Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. since 1982. The college provides flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for adults and offers degree and certificate programs in more than 100 areas of study.

Dr. Pruitt has been a member of the Seedco board since 1990 and is proud of the organization's strong track record.



“I truly believe that Seedco is one of the most effective organizations of its kind in the country,” Dr. Pruitt said. “We have a committed board and one of the most talented staffs I have ever seen, and I’m confident Seedco will continue to be successful in its important mission of generating economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities.”

He points out that Seedco is especially successful at working with communities. “They are always responsive to the needs of the community they serve,” he says. “That is so important.”

Dr. Pruitt is also pleased that Seedco can respond quickly to challenges. After the September 11th attacks in New York City, for example, Seedco moved expeditiously to establish a program to provide financial assistance to help New Yorkers get back on their feet. “It was quick and efficient. Within days of being capitalized, we had people on the street with checkbooks helping people,” he says. “It was the envy of other larger organizations whose bureaucracy did not allow them to be as nimble as Seedco.”

Dr. Pruitt, who succeeded Stanley Brezenoff as chair, says the board's role is to provide accountability, oversight and stewardship. And he expects Seedco to continue to take on new projects. “Every time I come to a board meeting there are new aspects of the organization. It's an organization that is always reinventing itself to meet the needs of the communities we serve.”

Prior to coming to Thomas Edison State College, Dr. Pruitt served in executive leadership positions at Illinois State University, Towson State University, Morgan State University, Tennessee State University and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.

He has consulted widely in business and government, as well as within the higher education community, and has served in an advisory capacity to three federal education secretaries. In a study of presidential leadership funded by the Exxon Education Foundation, Dr. Pruitt was identified as one of the most effective college presidents in the United States.

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