



**Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week**  
**Reggie L. Rolle Economic Development Champion - 2025**  
**Dr. Melvin Stith**



**Melvin T. Stith BS, MBA, Ph.D.**

Interim President, Norfolk State University (Former)  
Dean Emeritus, Martin J. Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University  
Dean Emeritus, College of Business, Florida State University

November 2017, Stith was appointed Interim President of his undergraduate alma mater Norfolk State University.

January 2005, he became the sixteenth dean of the Martin J. Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University. He served in that capacity until January 2016 when he retired. From 1991 to 2004, he was dean and the Jim Moran Professor of Business Administration in the College of Business at The Florida

State University and previously was associate professor and chair of the department of marketing. From 1982 to 1985, he was a visiting professor in the School of Business and Industry at Florida A&M University. He served as associate dean and assistant professor in the College of Business at the University of South Florida from 1977 to 1982.

A Vietnam veteran, Stith served in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Command from 1968 to 1972, achieving the rank of captain. A native of Jarratt, Va., he received his undergraduate education at Norfolk State University in 1968 (B.S., sociology), and his MBA and Ph.D. in marketing from the Whitman School in 1973 and 1978. His research interest is on the impact of value systems on consumer behavior and key influences on Black and White consumption patterns. He has shared his research and professional expertise with corporations, academic institutions and government agencies.

Stith served as a member of the board of directors of the following public corporations: Synovus Financial Corp., Aflac, Rexall Sundown, Keebler Foods. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Flowers Food Corporation. He also served on the Tallahassee State Bank, United Telephone/Sprint of Florida and PHTS board of directors. He served as Chair of the board of directors for AARP Services. He served as the Vice Rector, Board of Visitors, Norfolk State University until his appointment as interim President of Norfolk State University. He was also a member of the board of directors for the Accounting Pathways Commission. In Syracuse, he is a member of the Crouse Hospital board of directors. He served as president of the Crouse Hospital Foundation from 2012-2015. He is a member of the advisory board of Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families and the local professional theatre, Syracuse Stage. He is a founding member of the board of directors, Jim Moran Foundation.

In 2016, 2017, 2022 and 2024. Savory Magazine named him one of most influential black corporate directors.

Stith has received numerous awards over the course of his career. In 1990, he received Florida State University Dr. MLK, Jr.'s Distinguished Service Award and in 2018 he was inducted into the FSU College of Business Hall of Fame. He later received the Torch Award from Florida State University.

Stith is a founding member and remains active in the PhD Project, which aims to significantly increase the pool of highly qualified African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans for positions in the academy. In 2011, he was named to the project's inaugural Hall of Fame. He and his wife Patricia were presented the Syracuse Orange Circle Award in 2013 by Syracuse University because of their philanthropy to SU. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Stith is married to Dr. Patricia Lynch Stith, a Norfolk State University alumna, who retired as assistant provost for equity and inclusion at Syracuse University and associate dean of the graduate school. They are members of the Lyman Beecher Brooks Society at Norfolk State University. They are the proud parents of three children, Melvin Jr., Lori, William Stith and grandson, Drew.