

2016 Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year Dr. Isiah Warner, Louisiana State University



Isiah Warner is an LSU Boyd, the Phillip W. West Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor. Dr. Warner also serves as LSU's Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Southern University in 1968, and after working at Battelle Northwest Laboratory in Richland, WA, for five years, he left Battelle to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, graduating in 1977.

Dr. Warner is considered to be one of the world's experts in analytical applications of fluorescence spectroscopy. He is the corresponding author of the biannual reviews on "Molecular Fluorescence, Phosphorescence, and Chemiluminescence Spectrometry" in *Analytical Chemistry*. His other research interests include organized media and separation science, and analytical applications of ionic liquids.

In 1998, Dr. Warner was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and conduct research in Kenya. Two years after his fellowship, the National Science Foundation (NSF) asked him to co-organize a conference on materials science in Africa, which led to a continent-wide materials science network. His service to the international chemistry community also includes chairing or serving on committees for the NSF, the National Research Council and the American Chemical Society (ACS), among others.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Dr. Warner pioneered efforts to broaden the participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. A direct result of his leadership while serving as Chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1994-1997, LSU now ranks first in the nation in the production of African Americans with doctorate degrees in chemistry and in the percentage of female doctoral graduates in chemistry.

Dr. Warner founded the LA-STEM Research Scholars Program, a multi-faceted and holistic undergraduate training model designed to promote diversity while increasing access and achievement in STEM disciplines. To date, the program has served more than 200 high-achieving scholars, 44 percent of whom are from underrepresented groups and 53 percent of whom are women. Program participants have received numerous university and national honors, including eight Goldwater scholarships, 13 NSF Graduate Research fellowships, two Fulbright Fellowships and LSU's first Gates Cambridge Scholar.

Dr. Warner is an elected fellow of the ACS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society of Applied Spectroscopy. For his contributions to higher education, he has received the ACS Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. [Read more about Dr. Warner.](#)