

## **Christ Ackerman - Introductory Bio**

Chris Ackerman currently serves as Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at George Mason University, Virginia's largest and most diverse public research institution, enrolling over 40,000 students across ten colleges and schools and consistently recognized for its commitment to access, opportunity, and student success. Holding dual Carnegie classifications as both an R1 doctoral research university and a High Access, High Outcome institution, Mason has built a national reputation for combining research excellence with an unwavering commitment to serving first-generation students, underrepresented communities, and the broader public good.

In this role, Ackerman leads a comprehensive HR transformation that includes building the university's first HR Business Partner model, establishing Centers of Excellence, and advancing a five-pillar Workforce of the Future strategy aligned to accountability, workforce agility, and management and leadership development.

Prior to joining Mason, Ackerman served as Head of HR Client Services at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy facility operated by Stanford University. At SLAC, he led an HR team overseeing client services, compensation, and HR business partners, while playing a key role in shaping enterprise-level HR strategy in close collaboration with the SLAC Board of Oversight and senior leadership.

Stanford is one of five universities at which Ackerman has served in HR roles, along with positions at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, San Francisco, and Howard University. Before joining SLAC, he served as Managing Director of People Operations at the Stanford Cancer Institute within the Stanford School of Medicine.

Prior to Stanford, Ackerman was Vice President of Human Resources at HCA Healthcare, a multicampus hospital and health care system in Northern Virginia, serving as the chief HR officer and leading efforts that significantly enhanced employee attraction and retention, established strategic partnerships, and improved organizational efficiency.

A native Washingtonian, Ackerman earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maryland and is pursuing a Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University.

At the core of Ackerman's work is a deep passion for building people-first cultures that unlock human potential and drive organizational transformation. Across every sector he has served, from academic medical centers and national laboratories to large public universities and healthcare systems, he has been guided by the conviction that equitable, inclusive workplaces and intentional leadership development are the most powerful levers available to any institution. He brings to every role not just technical HR expertise but a genuine commitment to the people behind the mission.

## Feedback Survey

