

## **Bennie Fowler Jr.**

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Bennie is President and CEO of Bennie Fowler, LLC and a senior operations executive with 40 years of experience in the automotive industry at Ford, Chrysler and GM. His leadership positions have encompassed international expansion, new product launches, turnaround and restructuring. As Group Vice President, Quality and New Models at Ford, a \$165 billion company, Bennie has successfully launched 900 vehicle and powertrain programs while improving product quality around the world including launching 18 new vehicle assembly and powertrain plants in China, Russia, and India.

Bennie is a seasoned automotive expert with extensive responsibilities in leading manufacturing, product development, purchasing, total value management, quality and launch. Bennie has implemented an enterprise-wide quality and productivity plan reducing warranty reserves by over \$3 billion, resulting in Ford being an industry leader. Process improvements have led to over \$5 billion in cost improvement projects throughout the enterprise.

Bennie has the unique experience of leading manufacturing processes throughout the value chain of the automotive industry. From plant manager to chief operating officer to group vice president, he has guided transformations, as both change agent and effective leader. During the great recession, Bennie was one of eleven executives selected to restructure Ford resulting in eight consecutive years of profits totaling \$65 billion.

Bennie frequently leads the Ford Motor Company board of directors through quality and launch performance discussions. He serves on the Board of Celanese Corporation (NYSE: CE), a global technology and specialty materials company. Bennie was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program at The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). He served as a member of Beaumont Hospital's Board of Directors from 2009 to 2014, where chaired the Patient and Healthcare Committee and was a member of the Finance Committee.

Bennie founded the Powerstroke Athletic Club in 2000, an afterschool youth organization based in Southfield, Michigan. Powerstroke's mission is to develop positive characteristics and values in youths through hard work, discipline, education and relationships by relating the lessons of competitive sport to real world challenges. Powerstroke has helped over 4,000 youth since its inception, many which have received scholarships to college.

Bennie is a native of Augusta, Georgia, holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and a MBA in operations management from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.