



Dr. Donnie Horner

Donnie Horner was appointed Director of Athletics at Jacksonville University (JU) on June 2nd, 2014, having served as the Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer the prior year. A native of Bressler, Pennsylvania, Horner graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering, and was an Army football QB. He also received an M.S. in Transportation Systems from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University. Horner served for two years as the City of Jacksonville's first Education Commissioner, a cabinet level appointment in Mayor Alvin Brown's administration. Previously, Horner was the Class of '61 Chair and the Distinguished Professor of Leadership Education in the Department of Leadership, Ethics, and Law at the United States Naval Academy.

Dr. Horner has significant experience with fundraising, development, and community engagement. In 2007 while at the Naval Academy, he designed and implemented a leadership academy and outreach program to St. Benedict's Prep, an inner city school in Newark, New Jersey. The program continues to receive national acclaim as a model for outreach to underserved minority high school students. Horner instructs for the Jacksonville Regional Political Leadership Institute, the statewide Connect Florida leadership academy, and the Jacksonville Jaguars. He authored the 2009 white paper which led to the creation of the Jacksonville Civic Council. Mayor Brown recently appointed Dr. Horner to the Board of Directors of the Jacksonville Children's Commission, and is also a board member for the Youth Crisis Center. The Jacksonville Business Journal recognized Horner with its inaugural "Veteran of Influence" award in 2014.

Dr. Horner is married to the former Donell Iva Fryer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Horner's have two children: Donnie III, a U.S. Naval Academy & JU graduate (MBA), and Ashley, a graduate of The George Washington University and the College of Charleston (MA); both were Division-1 athletes.