

Cordell Carter, Esq.

Presidential Appointee | Board Advisor | Belonging Evangelist



Cordell brings more than 20 years to his pursuit of a society and organizational cultures where everyone belongs and has equitable opportunities to thrive. He is currently the executive director of the [Aspen Institute Socrates Program](#), a global education forum and the founding director of the [Aspen Institute's Project on Belonging](#). Finally, Cordell founded the [Festival of the Diaspora](#), a Medellin, Colombia based convener of diasporic communities across the Americas. Before his current roles, Cordell held leadership roles with the TechTown Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle Public Schools, Business Roundtable, National Alliance

for Public Charter Schools, and the IBM Corporation.

For the Aspen Institute, he curates more than three dozen off the-record leadership seminars annually in capital cities around the world reaching more than 1,000 leaders each year. He is also leading the Aspen Institute's efforts to shift the national conversation on racial equity and inclusion from compliance to belonging via an annual LATAM-based summit called the "[Festival of the Diaspora](#)." As the creator and lead facilitator of "[Becoming an Inclusive Republic](#)" and producer of the documentary "[The Road Trip to Belonging](#)", he is a sought-after facilitator and speaker on belonging and inclusion, post-secondary success, and democratic ideals. Over the last few years, he has delivered dozens of keynote speeches, facilitated roundtables and moderated panels all over the globe. Through Expectant Advisory, Cordell advises leaders and boards of directors at various points on their enterprise-wide inclusion and belonging learning journeys.

Cordell is a sought-after speaker on topics ranging from belonging and its connection to our civic faith. A few of his most popular topics include: "Becoming an Inclusive Republic", "The Five Forces Impacting Liberal Democracy" and the "Four Foundings." Over the last decade, he has spoken in 15 different countries and 20 US states. His leadership has been recognized all over the USA. In June 2021, President Joseph R. Biden appointed him as Commissioner, to the [President's Commission on White House Fellowships](#). His other honors include: a designation as a [2023 Minority Executives Making Moves by the Minority Business Review](#), [2021 Distinguished Alumni Leadership Awardee](#) by Cultural Vistas, an [Eisenhower Fellowship to China](#); designation as a "40 under 40" by business and civic organizations in Washington State and Tennessee; [University of Notre Dame Law School alumni of the year awardee](#); selections as a [Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow for Young American Leaders](#) and a [Broad Foundation Resident in Urban Education](#) and being feted by the Obama Administration as a [2016 Champion of Change for Computer Science Education](#).

Finally, he advises a leading upskiller, [SkillStorm](#), on creating technology training academies in underserved communities across America via the Upskill Together Initiative. Cordell also serves as a Board Director for [Concordia](#), Orbit Capital, [Oasis Fresh Markets](#), [Redemption Holdings](#) and the International Advisory Committee of [Danubius University](#) (Galatz, Romania). Finally, he is a limited partner with the [Fvlcrum Fund](#) and [Mendoza Ventures](#).

Mr. Carter earned a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School, a M.Sc. in Public Policy and Management Studies from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Washington.

Recent Press:

- https://tulsaworld.com/news/local/tech-schools-job-hubs-community-colleges-fill-vital-need-in-boosting-workforce-experts-say/article_e0953d0a-0774-11ed-b9fd-970649aca162.html
- https://www.nwtimes.com/news/workshops-kick-off-civility-day/article_e2082e6e-ac2a-54de-aa78-2e812f4c35ea.html
- <https://culturalvistas.org/articles/all/cultural-vistas-names-cordell-carter-ii-2021-distinguished-alumni-leadership-award-recipient/>
- <https://law.nd.edu/news-events/news/cordell-carter-07-jd-awarded-blsas-alvin-mckenna-alumni-award/>

Recent Podcast Appearances:

- **Factum Global Insider Series: Promoting Access, Belonging, and Inclusivity** - <https://factumglobal.com/global-insider-talks-episode-16/>
- **Impact Reimagined: How to Empower Young Leaders Through Dialogue with Cordell Carter** - <https://lnns.co/oTJkW7mjzax>
- **SHRM Executive Network: People + Strategy Podcast with Cordell Carter and Tony Lee** - <https://www.shrm.org/executive/resources/Pages/cordell-carter-tony-lee-podcast.aspx>
- **Executive Appeal: How To Succeed In The Face Of Fear With Cordell Carter** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ep62-how-to-succeed-in-the-face-of-fear-with-cardell-carter/id1543095908?i=1000570563807>
- **Lawful Good** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/s3-e07-cordell-carter/id1567405159?i=1000568985326>
- **Hope Dealers with AJ Johnson: Big Questions with Dr. Cordell Carter** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/big-questions-with-dr-cordell-carter/id1650341804?i=1000582986234>
- **Heinz Radio: The Power of Civil Discourse** - <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-heinz-radio-30935951/episode/the-power-of-civil-discourse-with-36868013/>
- **STARTedUP Podcast** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/cordell-carter-aspen-institute-and-the/id1190995056?i=1000557419977>
- **Aspen Ideas on the Go: Is National Unity Possible** - <https://lnns.co/ZAd7FOw9UJ3>
- **The Jazzy Comedy Show Podcast with Cordell Carter of the Aspen Institute** - <https://lnns.co/CGENQFmgn2Y>
- **How China Works: Cordell Carter Education | Leadership** - <https://lnns.co/G6bvN17oQzm>
- **What Students Want** - <https://blog.enrollhand.com/how-cordell-carter-raised-3m-usd-in-philanthropic-funding/>