

## **John W. Garland, Esq.**

President, Central State University

John W. Garland became Central State University's seventh president in 1997. Under his leadership, Central State has strengthened its academic offerings, made major capital improvements, and significantly increased enrollment. He helped spearhead a major initiative whose goal is to increase enrollment to 6,000 students by 2017.

Mr. Garland began his career in higher education in 1988, as general counsel to the University of the District of Columbia. He joined the University of Virginia in 1991 as associate general counsel and special assistant attorney general and later served as executive assistant to the president and Associate Vice-Provost for Intellectual Property.

In addition to his work in higher education, Mr. Garland was the founding director in 1979 of the Legal Services of the Coastal Plains, which serves low-income residents of rural northeastern North Carolina. The program, under his direction, helped develop creative solutions to stem the loss of black-owned farm lands. Mr. Garland also organized the legal teams that provided pro bono representation to the people arrested for protesting apartheid at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Garland served on a troopship off the coast of Cuba during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, and also during the 1964 military action in Panama. He saw combat duty in South Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained while serving as an infantry squad leader. He was honorably discharged in 1967.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2006 Dayton Urban League Dreamkeepers Award, which he shared with his wife, Carolyn Farrow-Garland, and the 2004 Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Educational Leadership Award.

Mr. Garland holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central State University and a J. D. degree from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

He and his wife have two children, Amy of Washington, D.C., and Jabari of New York City.