

Dr. Sandra Jordan is the Chief of Staff and Vice President at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Prior to coming to the Commission, she completed 35 years in higher education at institutions across the south and in New Mexico. In 2012, she became the Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Aiken and served in that role for a decade. Before becoming Chancellor, she served in a number of cabinet-level positions at universities, including Academic Vice President and Provost.

Dr. Jordan received her Doctorate (Ph.D.) from the University of Georgia. She also attended the Management Development Program at Harvard University, and the 21st Century Leadership Institute sponsored by American Academic Leadership Institute. Additionally, Dr. Jordan was a summer fellow at Vanderbilt University's Institute for Higher Education Management, and in 2019 became a Riley Diversity Leadership Fellow.

Dr. Jordan has a strong commitment to the community and the profession. She has served on the board of numerous non-profits, hospitals, organizations, and businesses. She was President of the Southern University Conference; served on the Executive Board of the Commission on Colleges; the South Carolina Women in Higher Education board of directors; and the board of directors for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. She was elected to the NCAA DII President's Council; and served on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACSC). In 2020, she became President of NCAA DII institutions for the U.S. and was elected to the NCAA Board of Governors.

Dr. Jordan is also active in developing future higher education leaders, training new presidents and devoting time to mentoring cabinet-level professionals through the national American Academic Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. She was presented with SACSCOC highest award for service to the profession in 2021, was honored by the South Carolina Legislature, was winner of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence, and twice recognized for exceptional leadership on the floor of the U.S. Congress.

Finally, throughout her career, she has worked extensively to expand international educational partnerships by negotiating agreements and building alliances with universities in Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Sandra and her husband Michael (yes, Michael Jordan) have one son, Matthew, who is a lead researcher at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque.