

William Johnston Armfield IV

Doctor of Laws

A native of Asheboro, North Carolina, Billy Armfield earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from UNC–Chapel Hill in 1956. After receiving a master of business administration degree from Harvard in 1962, Armfield began his highly successful career in the textile industry as vice president for marketing of the Madison Throwing Company (1963–1970). With Dalton L. McMichael Sr., he then co-founded Macfield Texturing, Inc., a firm that later merged with Unifi, Inc., a leading processor of multifilament polyester and nylon textured yarns. Armfield also served as president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute and president of the North Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association. He left Unifi in 1996 to become president of Spotswood Capital, LLC, a private investment firm. Armfield served on Carolina’s board of trustees from 1993 to 2001 and chaired the board for two of those years (1995–1996). In addition, he has served on the UNC–Chapel Hill Board of Visitors, the Kenan–Flagler Business School Board of Visitors, the Jordan Institute Community Advisory Board and the UNC–Chapel Hill Foundation Board. He was national co-chair of the Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina (1990–1995), the University’s largest fundraising effort up to that time, and an honorary member of the steering committee of the recently concluded Carolina First Campaign. He has also served on the boards of the North Carolina Textile Foundation at North Carolina State University and Woodberry Forest School. Armfield and his wife, Janie, have been among the most generous of the philanthropists who have helped propel Carolina to the forefront of American higher education. They have been major benefactors of the UNC–Chapel Hill Foundation, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Social Work, the UNC Medical Foundation, the Educational Foundation, the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, the Kenan–Flagler Business School, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, among others. Armfield’s honors include the William Richardson Davie Award (1992) and the General Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Medal (1995).

For outstanding accomplishments in business, public service, and philanthropy, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on William Johnston Armfield IV the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causi*.