

## **Dr. Patton McDowell, MBA, CFRE (Short Bio)**

Patton is a nonprofit expert, best-selling author, consultant and coach. He's a dynamic speaker who has presented at state and national conferences and universities nationwide. He founded [PMA Nonprofit Leadership](#) in 2009, and has worked with nearly 275 nonprofit organizations on their leadership development, fundraising and strategic planning. Previously he led development teams at two universities after nearly a decade working for Special Olympics International and in North Carolina. He's an AFP Master Trainer, and a former board president for AFP Charlotte and chapter representative for AFP Global. His podcast [Your Path to Nonprofit Leadership](#) now includes 165+ episodes featuring nonprofit leaders from around the world, and he published his first book, also titled [Your Path to Nonprofit Leadership](#), in 2022.

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## **Dr. Patton McDowell, MBA, CFRE (Full Bio)**

Patton is a nonprofit expert, best-selling author, consultant and coach. He's a dynamic speaker who has presented at state and national conferences and universities nationwide. He founded [PMA Nonprofit Leadership](#), in 2009, and has worked with nearly 275 organizations on their leadership development, fundraising and strategic planning. Prior to starting PMA, he spent a decade in higher education, including five years as Vice President for University Advancement at Queens University, and five years as Vice Chancellor for University Advancement at UNC Wilmington, where he was the youngest vice chancellor in the UNC system.

Before going to Wilmington, Patton served as Program Director for NC Special Olympics in Raleigh for seven years following two years with Special Olympics International in Washington D.C. His work for Special Olympics included the creation of a unique volunteer training system called sport development teams, still in use today nationwide.

Patton is a Past President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) chapter in Charlotte, and served as the Chapter Representative on the board of AFP Global. He currently serves as the Director and Lead Faculty member for the [Institute of Philanthropic Leadership's](#) signature programs: the New Development Professionals cohort and Leadership Gift School. Patton has hosted a weekly podcast called [Your Path to Nonprofit Leadership](#) since November 2019, and published a book, also titled [Your Path to Nonprofit Leadership](#), in March 2022.

Patton graduated from UNC Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar, received his MBA from the McColl School of Business at Queens University, and his Doctor of Education (Organizational Change and Leadership) from the University of Southern California. He and his wife Cindy have three adult children, Katie, Lauren and Parker.