



## **Biography of Jeffrey A. Robinson, Ph.D.**

Academic Director, **The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development, Rutgers University**

Associate Professor, **Management & Global Business, Rutgers Business School**

Director, **New Jersey Social Innovation Institute**

**Jeffrey A. Robinson, Ph.D.** is an award winning business school professor, international speaker and entrepreneur. Since 2008, he has been a leading faculty member at **Rutgers Business School** where he is an associate professor of management and entrepreneurship and the Academic Director of **The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development**. The Center is a unique interdisciplinary venue for innovative thinking and research on entrepreneurial activity and economic development in urban environments.

Through his research, business ownership and community activities he makes direct impacts entrepreneurship and economic development policy and practice in the state of New Jersey and beyond.

### **Scholar**

Dr. Robinson is an accomplished scholar. His research specialty can be described as the being at the intersection of business and society. His work addresses community and economic development issues for urban metropolitan areas in the United States and abroad. He has grant funded research projects on high growth oriented African American women entrepreneurs and social innovation. He is the co-editor (with Johanna Mair and Kai Hockerts) of the research volumes *Social Entrepreneurship, International Perspectives in Social Entrepreneurship*, and *Values and Opportunities in Social Entrepreneurship*. His most recent manuscripts are related to inner city unemployment patterns and nascent social entrepreneurship. In 2007, he was selected as the recipient of the **Aspen Institute's Social Impact Faculty Pioneer Award** for his research, service and teaching activities at the intersection of entrepreneurship and society. In 2011, his course, Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development, was recognized as a model of ***Innovative Entrepreneurship Education*** by the U.S. Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Robinson is a sought after speaker, author and media commentator recently appearing on Dateline NBC and NBC Nightly News, PBS, NJN News, *Huff Post Live*, NJ Biz, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. Dr. Robinson has been on the faculty of the Leonard N. Stern School of Business of New York University and Loyola University of Maryland prior to arriving at Rutgers Business. He has been the keynote speaker at international events and conferences in Shanghai, China; Lagos, Nigeria; Moscow, Russia; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Melbourne, Australia; Moscow, Russia and London, England and has taught or presented his work on six continents. Since 2013 he has participated as a speaker in the public diplomacy program of the U.S. State Department.

He has completed five degrees in the areas of engineering, urban studies and business. At Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies at Rutgers College and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Rutgers College of Engineering. He has a Master of Science in Civil Engineering Management from Georgia Institute of Technology and an M. Phil. and a Ph.D. in Management and Organizations at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

## **Entrepreneur**

Dr. Robinson is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of BCT Partners, a firm that provides management, technology and policy consulting to non-profits, foundations, corporations and various government entities as they plan and implement change strategies and improve organizational effectiveness. Through BCT he has worked on numerous community technology and community building projects in the State of New Jersey, and the cities of New York, Baltimore, and Atlanta. He advises several social ventures and opened, Eden Organix, a day spa and retailer of organic skin and beauty products with his wife Valerie Mason-Robinson in 2008.

## **Advocate**

Dr. Robinson is a passionate advocate for social entrepreneurship and community economic development. He is particularly committed to supporting community building, entrepreneurship and the development of social ventures. He believes that long lasting change for inner city communities is stimulated when community institutions, business leaders and government entities work together toward the common goal of community revitalization.

Most recently, he is engaged in a multi-year project to raise the profile of social entrepreneurship and social innovation in the state of New Jersey. Emerging from his pioneering research, the *New Jersey Social Entrepreneurship Summit* and the *New Jersey Social Innovation Institute* are national models for establishing a regional culture of social problem solving using entrepreneurial approaches.

Dr. Robinson volunteers his time as a member of the board of the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, and works with various community organizations to empower, educate and encourage others. He holds life memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and the National Black MBA Association. He lives in Piscataway, New Jersey with his wife, Valerie, and their three children. They are active members of Abundant Life Family Worship Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

For more information go to [www.jeffreyrobinsonphd.com](http://www.jeffreyrobinsonphd.com) or [www.redefinethgame.com](http://www.redefinethgame.com)

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