



Michael Marsicano, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Michael Marsicano is President and CEO of Foundation For The Carolinas, the community foundation serving Charlotte and a 13-county region. The Foundation leads a variety of civic leadership initiatives in areas such as affordable housing, economic opportunity, public school reform, the arts and the environment.

Since joining the Foundation in 1999, its assets have grown from \$245 million to now more than \$3 billion. During that time, FFTC rose from the 35th largest community foundation in the U.S. to currently the 6th largest and now manages nearly 3,000 charitable funds: contributions to FFTC-held funds have exceeded \$5.1 billion and grant awards to nonprofits total more than \$3.7 billion. Under his leadership, the Foundation launched E4E Relief, a wholly owned subsidiary that is now the nation's leading provider of employee disaster and hardship funds.

Dr. Marsicano joined FFTC after serving as President and CEO of the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte for 10 years. During his tenure, the United Arts Fund moved to the nation's highest in per capita in annual giving and became one of the largest endowed arts councils in the U.S.

Dr. Marsicano has been active in many national and local organizations. He currently serves on the Governing Board of Charlotte Center City Partners and as the Strategy Advisor to the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council. He recently retired from the boards of Duke University, Duke University Health System and Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. He is immediate past chair of the Queens University of Charlotte Board of Trustees. Dr. Marsicano previously chaired the boards of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies and the UNC School of the Arts, and has served on the boards of Americans for the Arts, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Discovery Place, Nasher Museum of Art, the UNC Charlotte Foundation, Winthrop University Foundation, the Vann Center for Ethics at Davidson College and the board of Community Foundations of America.

Dr. Marsicano has received numerous honors and awards. On the national level, he was the recipient of the Selina Roberts Ottum Award, given annually to the top arts administrator in the nation, and was ranked among the top 50 most influential nonprofit leaders in America by the Nonprofit Times. *On the state level, he has been recognized as one of the 100 most powerful citizens in several years.* He received the Charlotte Hornets Education Hero Award and the Affordable Housing Champion Award from the Charlotte Housing Partnership in 2019. Dr. Marsicano was the inaugural winner of the Innovator of the Year Award from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, Charlotte Magazine ranked Dr. Marsicano as the #1 most powerful person in Charlotte. In 2019, he was named "Business Person of the Year" by Charlotte Business Journal. He has received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Johnson C. Smith University's Arch of Triumph Award; the Vision Award from Charlotte Center City Partners; the Medal of Honor in the Arts from Winthrop University and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award from the Urban League of Central Carolinas.

A native of New York, Dr. Marsicano received his Bachelor of Science, Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy from Duke University. He is married to the Rev. Leslie Montfort Marsicano, also a graduate of Duke University and the Duke Divinity School. Leslie is an ordained Methodist Minister, recently retired Associated Dean for Academic Administration at Davidson College and current Director, Preyer Honors Programs and Initiatives for Academic Excellence at Queens University of Charlotte.