

Melvin J. Gravely, II is the CEO and Chairman of the board of Cincinnati, Ohio based commercial construction company TriVersity Construction. Gravely is also the founder of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Ltd. The Institute is a think-tank focused on getting the best results from minority business development initiatives. He is seen as one of the leading national thinkers on the topic of minority business development and supplier diversity.

Mel is the author of nine books including his latest new book, "Dear White Friend: The Realities of Race, the Power of Relationships, and our Path to Equity" and "The Capacity to Succeed: Fulfilling the Promise of Minority Business Development." "Dear White Friend" was inspired by the nasty rhetoric he has heard about race and enabled by the free time allotted to him by COVID.

An active business and civic leader who has chaired the board of the Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce, Gravely served on the board of the United Way, was a founding board member of the Cincinnati Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI Cincinnati) and vice chairperson of Artswave, the largest community arts fund in the nation. He co-chaired the Cincinnati Regional Business Committee, a group of 100 middle market CEOs working collectively toward meaningful civic action. He is also a board member of several private companies.

Gravely graduated from Mount Union University and holds an MBA from Kent State University, and a Ph.D. from the Union Institute and University. He has received several awards and distinctions, including the Larry Albice Entrepreneurship Award, the Cincinnati Regional Chamber Woman Mentor of the Year, Forty Under Forty Award, multiple IBM 100% Clubs, the Men of Honor Award, and the 2020 Carl H. Linder Award for Entrepreneurial and Civic Spirit.

He is married to Chandra Y. (Webb) Gravely, a physician with UC Health. They live in Cincinnati, OH, and have three grown children and one granddaughter.

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