



BIO

Shelley Strickland, PhD **CCF Chief Executive Officer**

Dr. Shelley Strickland joined the Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF) in January 2024 as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Shelley draws upon the eight years she served as Vice President for Philanthropy at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), where she oversaw all aspects of development and communications. She was hired to engineer a strategic redirection of the foundation and under her tenure, AAACF enjoyed sustained record asset growth and exponentially enhanced community engagement. At the board's request, she also served as Interim CEO for several months to continue advancing the foundation's strategic direction. Shelley has enjoyed sharing her community foundation knowledge and experience as a featured author and speaker for Grantmakers for Education, the *Foundation Review*, the Council on Michigan Foundations, and the Growing Community Foundations Conference.

Beyond her community foundation executive leadership, Shelley has more than 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector in Michigan and Georgia, as both a practitioner in development and communications as well as a philanthropy educator and scholar. Dr. Strickland has numerous national publications and presentations and teaching experience at both two- and four-year institutions. She earned her PhD in higher education from the University of Michigan, where she created the curriculum for and taught for nine years the academic course component of U-M's Development Summer Internship Program (D-SIP), an award-winning program designed to expose undergraduates to fundraising and philanthropy, and taught workshops for nonprofit boards.

After her doctorate, Shelley embraced an opportunity to serve her then-community of Washtenaw County through AAACF and to further enhance her skills in complex financial partnerships, grantmaking, and impact investing. In doing so, Dr. Strickland cemented her lifelong passion for community-based philanthropy and exercises her life mission as an educator to teach, train, and spread the message to professional advisors, nonprofit board members, volunteers, potential donors, and philanthropy professionals alike about the joy of giving. Shelley also holds an MA from the University of VA, and a BA from Western Michigan University.

She has been married to Tim for 25 years and is a proud parent to a college sophomore son; the family of three was all born in the South. Shelley cherishes lifelong friendships from everywhere she has lived and worked; collects flamingos since she was six-years old, including her most prized pink possession of a flamingo planter her FL-based grandfather made; and maintains that she will someday return to the golf handicap she held in her twenties, just as she chases delusions of being a great cook and baker!