

## **BRIEF BIO—DR. BENSON GEORGE COOKE**

Dr. Benson George Cooke ([website](#)), a Distinguished Professor of Counseling and Psychology at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) in Washington, DC, serves as the Director of the Graduate Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. An accomplished author and speaker, Dr. Cooke has presented on a broad array of topics at national and international conferences, symposiums, workshops, and professional institutes. Additionally, he has appeared on numerous national and local cable radio and television programs. He has been interviewed for documentary films and has been a guest speaker for numerous esteemed organizations, including the Congressional Black Caucus, University of Oxford's Round Table Symposium, and England's Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Program Master Class Series. Furthermore, he served as a guest lecturer at the Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation at Massey University in New Zealand.

He is the recipient of the UDC Dr. Marjorie Holloman Parker Distinguished Educator's Award and the UDC awardee for Faculty Excellence in Teaching presented by the UDC President's Executive Cabinet. He is the past national president of the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi) 2009–2011 and recipient of numerous national community service, educational/faculty excellence, scholarship, and professional service awards. Dr. Cooke is a Distinguished Psychologist recognized by the ABPsi for his significant career contributions to the field of psychology. His work has been particularly impactful in developing culturally relevant interventions for the African American community, (e.g., guidelines following Hurricane Katrina in 2005), which are reflected in the psychological literature and practical applications. Before his current position at the UDC, he held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (UMass), Xavier University of Louisiana, and George Mason University. He also served as a program administrator and clinician for PSI Associates, a Washington, DC-based for-profit mental health organization.

He is an author of numerous journal articles, magazine articles, newspaper interviews, and book chapters, including six authored and coauthored textbooks: (1) *Personal Empowerment for People of Color: Keys to Success in Higher Education*; (2) *All About Depression*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition; (3) *Socio-Economic and Education Factors Impacting American Political Systems: Emerging Research and Opportunities*; (4) *Selected Aspects of Mentoring: Advice, Challenges, and Approaches*; (5) *All About Depression: Issues, Treatment, and Resources*, 2nd Edition; and (6) *Epigenomic Awareness as a Key to Black Mental Health: The Disruptive Effects of Not Knowing*. Dr. Cooke holds Ed.D. and M.S. degrees from UMass and a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.