

Dr. Russ Wigginton serves as the President of the National Civil Rights Museum. He assumed this role in August 2021 and brings vast experience in education, fundraising, operations, and community engagement. Prior to this role, Wigginton served as the Chief Postsecondary Impact Officer for Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) from 2019-2021, where he led the organization's work for postsecondary access, retention, and completion. Wigginton served as vice president for student life and dean of students at Rhodes College from 2017-2019, where he oversaw the college's co-curricular experience for students.

From 2006-2017, Russ served as vice president for external programs and vice president for college relations, where he helped establish and implement institutional strategy for the college's engagement in Memphis and beyond, and oversaw the college grants, foundations and government relations, alumni relations, communications, career services, and continuing education departments.

Russ taught eight years in the History department at Rhodes, specializing in African-American and community history. He has published a book entitled, *The Strange Career of the Black Athlete: African-Americans and Sports* as well as articles and essays on African-American social and labor history. Russ has served on numerous civic boards, including the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis Zoo, the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, Bridges USA, Facing History and Ourselves, Ballet Memphis, ArtsMemphis, UrbanArt Commission, and independent or charter schools.

Russ graduated from Rhodes College with a BA in History and earned a PhD in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He has a son, Ryan, a recent graduate of the University of Richmond and completing his MA in Clinical Studies at Vanderbilt University. He is married to Tomeka Hart Wigginton, President and CEO for the United Way of the Mid-South.