**Alton Thompson**

Dr. Alton Thompson is the Executive Director for the Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD). As ARD’s Executive Director, he provides leadership and coordination in representing the Association on developing regional/multistate and national research priorities, and implementing a regional response for the 1890 region. In addition, Dr. Thompson promotes, articulates and advocates the priorities of the 1890 regional research agenda within the national framework of USDA- National Institute for Agriculture (NIFA), other federal agencies, and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Dr. Thompson serves in an executive capacity on a number of committees and working groups focusing on legislative issues, federal, state and private appropriation of funds for 1890 regional/multistate research.

Prior to joining ARD in August 2016, Dr. Thompson served as provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at Delaware State University (DSU). As DSU’s chief academic officer, he provided leadership to all operations related to academic planning and budgeting; program evaluation, assessment and accreditation; educational policies and procedures; professional development; promotion and tenure of faculties, and strategic planning.

Prior to joining DSU in July 2010, Dr. Thompson was a tenured professor and dean and executive director for Agricultural Programs in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University for eight years and then served as interim provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs for two years. He earned his bachelor’s degree at North Carolina Central University and his master’s and doctorate from The Ohio State University.