# Jimmy Cheek

Jimmy G. Cheek is Chancellor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT).  He served as Chancellor from 2009-2017. Within a year of taking office, he accepted the Governor’s challenge for UT to become a Top 25 public-research university in the United States. This aggressive initiative sparked exciting momentum around improving undergraduate education, graduate education, research, campus infrastructure, and securing additional financial resources which included approval by the Board of Trustees of differential tuition for 4 colleges and the 15-4 tuition model. An unprecedented $1 billion in campus construction was completed or underway. Numerous changes in the university’s delivery of core services dramatically improved enrollment, retention and graduation rates and brought our metrics closer to our aspirant peers. Increased commitment to faculty and staff salaries aided in recruitment and retention of world-class faculty and staff.

Prior to his service with UT, Cheek was a member of the faculty and an administrator at the University of Florida for thirty-four years, last serving as senior vice president of agricultural and natural resources. Cheek currently serves on the United Way Tocqueville Cabinet, the Board of Directors, and is Campaign Chair for 2018.  He is a member of the Delaware Valley University Board of Trustees and is Chair of the Board of Directors for the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC).

Cheek earned his bachelor’s degree with high honors and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He received his master’s degree from Lamar University. A native of Texas, he is married to Ileen Cheek, and they have two children and four grandchildren.