

Biography of Linda Morrison Combs

Linda Morrison Combs has served three United States Presidents and the Governor of North Carolina with distinction in the field of management.

Dr. Combs was appointed Chief Financial Officer of the US Environmental Protection Agency by President George W. Bush in 2001 and was confirmed to that position by the US Senate. As Chief Financial Officer, she is the agency's top financial management executive, maintaining accountability for development of the annual budget, resource and financial management, and payroll and disbursements. She also oversees EPA's strategic and annual planning processes and is responsible for significant segments of the Agency's implementation of the President's Management Agenda.

She also was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Management by President George H. W. Bush in 1989 and was confirmed to that position by unanimous consent of the US Senate. As the first Chief Financial Officer at Treasury, she was accountable for the annual planning and budget process, and was responsible for directing the Department's personnel and financial management, automated information systems, and all administrative operations. At that time, the Treasury Department's had an operating budget totaling \$9 billion and a workforce of 175,000 employees.

From 1989 to 1991, she served as Vice Chair of the President's Council for Management Improvement (PCMI), an advisory council appointed by the President charged with studying and recommending broad and sweeping improvements in cross-cutting management issues, policies and programs affecting the entire Federal Government. One major legislative initiative brought to fruition by the PCMI at that time was the landmark Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990.

She held the chief management position at the US Department of Veterans Affairs from 1987 to 1989. At the US Department of Education, Dr. Combs served as Deputy Under Secretary for Management from 1984 to 1986, and as the Executive Secretary—the Department's principal administrative official—from 1982 to 1984.

Dr. Combs has held other top-level educational leadership roles, including the post of Education Advisor to the Governor of North Carolina (1986-1987). She was elected to the Board of Education of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for 1980-1982, following a successful career of over ten years in instructional and administrative positions in that district. As Operations Officer and Manager of National Direct Student Loans for the Wachovia Corporation (1979-1982), Dr. Combs was responsible for the general management of National Direct Student Loan Operations functions, planning and managing an expense budget affecting several million dollars of annual revenue.

Until recently, Dr. Combs was a member of the Board of Visitors of the Babcock School of Management at Wake Forest University, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Appalachian State University Foundation, and a member of the Board of Trustees at Gardner-Webb University. She has also served as a member of several corporate boards.

A native of Granite Falls, North Carolina, Dr. Combs earned an Associate of Arts degree at Gardner-Webb University. She earned her Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees from

Appalachian State University, a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and is a graduate of the Program for Senior Managers in Government at Harvard University. She holds an honorary Doctorate from Gardner-Webb University and has received numerous awards during her career for both her professional and public service.