

## BIOGRAPHY: R. MICHAEL BROWDER, PE, ED.D.

Michael Browder has served as CEO of Bristol Tennessee Essential Services (BTES) since 1977. He earned a Doctorate of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from East Tennessee State University (ETSU) *Organizational Culture: How Changes Impact Attitudes Toward Job Satisfaction* (Doctoral dissertation), a Master of Administrative Science degree from the University of Alabama Huntsville and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from Auburn University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in both Tennessee and Alabama.

Under Browder's leadership, BTES expanded their product offerings in 2005 to add cable and Internet services and again in 2006 to add telephone services. BTES now offers the fastest Internet available in the United States with 10 Gigabits of service available to its customers. Additionally, BTES received the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) Level 4 Excellence Award in 1994 and 2012.

Browder is the 2010 recipient of the TNCPE Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award and served on TNCPE's Board of Directors from 1997-2009. He is also the 2013 recipient of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2015 Award of Honor from the ETSU National Alumni Association.

In addition to being a past chairman for the American Public Power Association (APPA), Browder served as a board member for nine years and was part of the Executive Director Search Committee that hired the previous CEO. Since 2003, he has served on the Nominations and Awards Committee which nominates all board members and officers of APPA. To honor his longtime commitment to the enhancement of the electric power industry, Browder has received several awards from APPA including the James D Donovan Individual Achievement Award, the Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award and the Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award.

Browder works closely with the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and is active on several committees. Most notable is the Rates and Contracts Committee, where he has been a Chair since 1990. The committee works closely with the Tennessee Valley Authority to keep electric rates low for the valley customers. He has served on their Board of Directors several times since 1989.

Locally, Browder is very active in his community. He is a past Chairman of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and has served on various committees for the Chamber. He is a past Chairman of the Board for Bristol Regional Medical Center (Wellmont) and helped to bring to fruition a new \$111 million hospital serving as the Chairman of the Building Committee from the design phase through moving into the new facility. Browder served on the United Way of Bristol Board of Directors from 1977 until 2008. He served two terms as President as well as on other committees. He led their annual campaign as Campaign Chairman in 1979 and later went on to receive their Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1991. He has served on several boards for local schools including Bristol Tennessee School System, East Tennessee State University, King University and Northeast State Community College.

Browder has been a member of the Rotary Club of Bristol VA-TN since 1973. Offices he has held include President, Assistant Governor and District Membership Chairman. He is proud to have sponsored over 90 members into Rotary.

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He and his wife, Linda, are very active in their church. Browder currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He has previously served as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Pipe Organ Design, Fundraising and Purchasing Committee, as well as the Board of Administration. He has also been a Sunday School Teacher. Together he and Linda have three children and six grandchildren.