

Ambassador (Ret.) John F. Hicks

ProSidian Consulting Advisory Board

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Relevant Experience (39 years)



Ambassador (Ret.) John F. Hicks, a retired diplomat and international educator, is a member of the Advisory Board and Principal/Practice leader for International Affairs at ProSidian Consulting. Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks is also founder and CEO of Global Consulting and Advisory Services based in Atlanta Georgia. He brings 26 years of experience in international development and diplomacy and 13 years of experience in international education. As a Senior Foreign Service Officer with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), he served in Washington, the Middle East and in 6 different African countries. As an economic development and humanitarian assistance professional, Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks developed country assistance strategies and programs, prepared and managed multi-million dollar budgets, led project preparation and implementation, and undertook comprehensive evaluations and assessments of economic development and humanitarian assistance activities worldwide.

Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks joined USAID's professional internship program in 1973 and progressed quickly through the ranks directing offices in Washington, serving in executive leadership positions in three African countries, and being appointed by President Clinton in 1993 as Assistant Administrator for USAID's Africa Bureau, responsible for directing U.S. economic development and humanitarian assistance programs for Sub-Saharan Africa. In this capacity, Hicks was responsible for the \$800 million per year Development Fund for Africa and over a billion dollars in humanitarian assistance including food aid. While at USAID he became a member of the Senior Foreign Service and achieved the rank of Career Minister.

Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks assumed his second presidential and senate confirmed appointment in August of 1996 when he became the second U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) to the Republic of Eritrea, a newly independent country in East Africa. In this role, he represented the President and U.S. government in Eritrea on matters pertaining to political, military, commercial and other U.S. interests.

Prior to joining ProSidian, Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks served for 13 years as the Associate Provost for International Affairs at Georgia State University where he established the university's first university-wide international office charged with strengthening international education. This was accomplished through the establishment of numerous programs for both students and faculty members aimed at: increasing international exposure through study abroad, international exchange, strategic programmatic initiatives to foster increased faculty engagement, infusing international content into the curriculum and building strategic partnerships with international higher education institutions.

Notable accomplishments include: quadrupling the number of students studying abroad; increasing faculty

international participation by 50 percent; the creation of partnerships with over 100 universities worldwide; leveraging nearly \$60 million from both public and private sources to support the institution's global engagement; national and international recognition of Georgia State University as a leader in preparing its students to become globally competent citizens and world leaders.

With extensive and diversified international experience and his unique competencies in diplomacy and negotiation, economic development and international education, Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks brings a unique and critically important global dimension to ProSidian's Board of Advisors. His efforts will focus on leveraging both domestic and international clients and creating opportunities for ProSidian to offer services in the areas of organizational development, strategic planning, business development, project management, operations and change management, instructional technology, human resources development and international education capacity building in tertiary education institutions.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, a diploma from the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies Center in Bologna Italy and a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies in Washington, D.C. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the U.S. Department of State's Presidential Award and the Agency for International Development's Equal Employment Opportunity Award. Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks holds honorary doctorate degrees from the Morehouse School of Medicine and Morris Brown College and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a member of Georgia State University's Advisor Board for the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).

When not working, Ambassador (Ret.) Hicks does volunteer work for at risk youth and mentors young men regarding self-improvement, higher education and social responsibility. He enjoys art, reading and golf.

