

TIMELINE OF DR. JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE'S LIFE AND CAREER

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| 1936 | Born October 19, 1936, in Jacksonville, Florida |
| 1952 | Enrolled at Fisk University's Basic College at the age of fifteen |
| 1953 | Transferred to Oberlin College |
| 1957 | Completed BA in sociology at Oberlin College |
| 1959 | Completed MA in anthropology at Northwestern University |
| 1960–1962 | Conducted dissertation field research in Liberia, West Africa |
| 1962–1970 | Served as assistant professor of anthropology at Washington State University |
| 1967 | Earned PhD in Anthropology from Northwestern University |
| 1969–1970 | Served as founding director of the Black Studies program at Washington State |
| 1970–1983 | Served as professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst W. E. B Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, Anthropology, and Women's Studies |
| 1980 | Elected president of the Association of Black Anthropologists |

- 1981–1983 Served as provost for undergraduate education at UMass Amherst
- 1982 Published *Anthropology for the Eighties: Introductory Readings*
- 1983–1987 Served as Russell Sage Professor in Anthropology at Hunter College and as Director of Women’s Studies and Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the City University of New York
- 1986 Appointed visiting professor of Women’s Studies at Oberlin College
- 1986 Published *All American Women: Lines That Divide, Ties That Bind*
- 1987–1997 Served as the first Black woman president of Spelman College
- 1988 Published *Anthropology for the Nineties*
- 1988 Received the Candace Award from the National Coalition for 100 Black Women
- 1990 Appointed a founding member of President George H. W. Bush’s Thousand Points of Light Foundation Board
- 1991 Received the Achievement Award from the American Association of University Women
- 1991 Named Outstanding Citizen of the State of Georgia
- 1991 Received the Northwestern University Alumni Merit Award
- 1991 Received *Glamour* magazine Woman of the Year Award
- 1992–1993 Appointed to President Bill Clinton’s transition team as Cluster Coordinator for Education, Labor, Arts, and Humanities
- 1992–1996 Worked on the Atlanta Project, an initiative launched by President Jimmy Carter and the Carter Center to create a coordinated effort to assist disadvantaged families in the Atlanta area
- 1993 Received the American Anthropological Association Distinguished Service Award

- 1993 Published *Conversations: Straight Talk with America's Sister President*
- 1995 Received the NAACP Pathway to Excellence Award
- 1996 Received the Mayor's Proclamation designating May 17 as Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole Day in the City of Atlanta
- 1996 Received honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University
- 1997 Published *Dream the Boldest Dreams and Other Lessons of Life*
- 1997 Retired as president emerita of Spelman College
- 1998 Received the Dorothy I. Height Dream Maker Award from the National Council of Negro Women
- 1998 Inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1998 Received the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation Education Achievement Award from the Women's National Democratic Club
- 1998 Received the TransAfrica Forum Global Public Service Award
- 1998–1999 Appointed to President Bill Clinton's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History
- 1998–2001 Appointed Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies, and African American Studies at Emory University
- 1999 Appointed to Georgia governor Roy Barnes's Commission on Education Reform
- 1999 Received the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta Legacy Award
- 1999 Received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal
- 1999 Received the Radcliffe College Medal from the Alumnae Association
- 1999 Received the President's Medal from Hunter College
- 2001 Received the Alexis de Tocqueville Award for Community Service from United Way of America

- 2002 Received the Women of Courage and Strength Award from *American Legacy* magazine
- 2002 Received the Women Who Make a Difference Award from the National Council for Research on Women
- 2002–2007 Served as president of Bennett College for Women
- 2003 Published *Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities* (with Beverly Guy-Sheftall)
- 2004 Appointed chair of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute at Bennett College
- 2004 Received the Joseph Prize for Human Rights from the Anti-Defamation League
- 2004–2006 Served as chair of the Board of Trustees of United Way of America; first African American chair of the board
- 2006 Received the Lenore and George W. Romney Citizen Volunteer Award from the Points of Light Foundation
- 2006 Building at Spelman College is named the Johnnetta B. Cole Living and Learning Center
- 2006–2008 Appointed to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Committee on Transformational Diplomacy
- 2007 Retired from presidency of Bennett College for Women and appointed president emerita
- 2008 Invited to deliver the 2008 Distinguished Lecture for the American Anthropological Association
- 2009 Received the Human Rights Campaign National Ally of Equality Award
- 2009 Published *I Am Your Sister: Published and Unpublished Writings of Audre Lorde* (with Rudolph Byrd and Beverly Guy-Sheftall)
- 2009–2017 Served as director of the Smithsonian Institution for the National Museum of African Art

- 2013 Received the Alston-Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award from the International Civil Rights Center and Museum
- 2015 Received the BET Honors Award for Education
- 2017 Received the Asa G. Hilliard Model of Excellence Award
- 2017 Received the Award for Distinguished Service to Museums from the American Alliance of Museums