



TREE FUND
Cultivating Innovation



Paul G. Putman, PhD
President & CEO, TREE Fund

Dr. Paul Putman joined Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund in 2023 as President & CEO. TREE Fund is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in urban forestry and arboriculture. Since 2002, TREE Fund has distributed over \$5.4 million in research grants, scholarships, and funding for environmental education both nationwide and around the globe to advance the science, practice and safety of tree care and engage the next generation of tree

stewards.

Prior to TREE Fund, Dr. Putman worked at the Cleveland Foundation, the world's first community foundation, where he served in both grantmaking and philanthropy departments for 15 years. As a Program Officer with the Community Responsive Grantmaking team, Paul facilitated grantmaking across multiple sectors by focusing on efforts to strengthen nonprofit organizations and improve access to services for underserved populations. In the Philanthropy department, Paul served most recently as Senior Director of Philanthropic Services, leading a team of professionals in working with individuals, families, and nonprofits throughout greater Cleveland to help them achieve their philanthropic goals. Prior to joining the foundation, Paul spent a decade leading the Center for Leadership and Service at Cleveland State University (CSU).

Paul earned his doctorate in urban education from CSU with a focus on leadership and lifelong learning. Paul earned his master's in psychology, with a specialization in diversity management from CSU and his master's in education, guidance, and counseling from Eastern Illinois University. Paul earned his bachelor's in English from Kent State University. He is also a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®).

After earning his doctorate, Paul taught at several universities. He spent five years teaching in the Diversity Management master's program at CSU and four years teaching undergraduate classes at Baldwin Wallace University in leadership in philanthropy and grant proposal writing.

Paul has published in multiple scholarly journals and authored several book chapters. He co-edited (along with Dr. Cate Monaghan and Dr. Paulette Isaac-Savage) a book from Routledge: *Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities* (2024).

Paul also remains active in the community. He spent 19 years in a leadership role with the Cleveland International Film Festival managing theater (logistical) operations. He is a mentor with College Now Greater Cleveland and currently serves on the board of the Cleveland Public Library Foundation.

Short Bio

Dr. Paul Putman is the President & CEO of Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in urban forestry and arboriculture. Dr. Putman has also worked at the Cleveland Foundation, the world's first community foundation, where he served in both grantmaking and philanthropy departments for 15 years, and he spent a decade leading the Center for Leadership and Service at Cleveland State University (CSU). He has taught at multiple universities, published in scholarly journals, authored several book chapters, and co-edited *Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities* (2024.)

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