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Dr. Francis Otuonye is currently Associate Vice President for Research and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Tennessee Technological University, and previously served as Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree (cum laude) and a Master's degree in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University, and a PhD degree in Civil Engineering from The Ohio State University. Prior to his position at Tennessee Technological University in 2001, he was Professor and Chairman of Mining Engineering at Michigan Technological University and Director of the Michigan Mine Safety and Health Training Program.

As Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Otuonye provided strategic leadership and directions for research and graduate studies that resulted in almost two-fold increases in grants acquisition and graduate student enrollment. He served as the Executive Officer of the University Research Advisory Committee, Faculty Research Committee, Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Advisory Committee on Patents and Copyrights, Graduate School Executive Committee, and Caplenor Research Committee, in addition to several other University committees.

In his current position as Associate Vice President for Research, he provides directions for research and creative activities, and facilitates grants acquisition, pre- and post-award administration and compliance, and intellectual property protection.

Dr. Otuonye serves on several federal government review panels. He has numerous publications to his credit, and has secured more than \$8 million in funded research grants and contracts as principal investigator.