

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Johnson Link



Johnson Link is in his fourth year as associate vice president within the Division of Student Affairs in 2018–19. Link oversees the division's municipal services, which include Business Continuity and Security Planning, Emergency Management, Fire/EMS, Municipal Court and Parking and Transportation Services.

Link is certainly no stranger to the local community. He holds the rare distinction of having served as chief of police for both the university and the city of Clemson. He earned his start with the city police department in February 1978. Seven years later, he was promoted to the youngest chief of police in Clemson history. Link served the city police department until 2002.

After finishing work on his undergraduate degree, Link moved on from the police ranks to the academic world. He was a teacher at Tri-County Technical College and, after one year, was hired to administer its public services department, which included criminal justice, radio and television broadcasting and early childhood development.

Link became a second-generation chief of police at Clemson University when he was named to the position in 2007. His father was longtime chief of police for the university before retiring in the mid-1980s. Link worked in that role for years before becoming Clemson's chief of public safety, where in addition to CUPD he oversaw the Fire and EMS departments. He also helped create its Emergency Preparedness department.

Several honors have been bestowed on Link in recent years. In 2014, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety named CUPD the Public Safety Agency of the Year among mid-sized (26–50 officers) law enforcement agencies. A year later, Link was named a finalist for Director of the Year by Campus Safety magazine.

In 2017, he received the Abernathy/Cox One Clemson Award from the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce. The award was created by the Joint City/University Advisory Board and is presented annually to an individual who has given his or her time and efforts to make a significant impact to both Clemson University and the City of Clemson. The award is given in memory of both the late City of Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy, Link's longtime friend, and late Clemson University President Walter Cox.

A Clemson resident nearly all of his life, Link lived in campus housing with his parents and two older sisters as a child. He attended Daniel High School and began his undergraduate career at Clemson. He finished with a sociology degree, with an emphasis on criminal justice, from Lander University in Greenwood, S.C.

Link and his wife, Gennie, have three children (Amanda, Jay and Hannah) and three grandchildren.