

BIOGRAPHY



Meredith Beal

His Royal Highness Meredith Clayton Beal is Sr. Paramount Chief & Global Envoy of the Bakholokoe Kingdom of southern Africa. He assumed the position following his role as Special Advisor to King Letsitsa III. Beal is an award-winning media owner from the United States and serves as Sr. Technology Advisor for the African Media Initiative (AMI), Media/Technology Advisor for United Religions Initiative—Africa and Africa Editor for Hollywood Weekly magazine. He also serves as a delegate to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the African Union Assembly, the Geneva Peace Talks and the G20 Summit. He led a multi-country program to improve business management practices at media organizations in Africa, creating new revenue streams and developing business models that could be replicated at media companies across the continent. Beal mentored a number of African media organizations, helping them monetize mobile and online news services and organized international mentors for newspapers across Africa. He is a former Knight International Journalism Fellow, a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Fellow, a Radio in the American Sector (RIAS) Berlin Fellow and a National Association of Broadcasters (USA) Fellow.

He forged an alliance between American, Japanese and European experts and African TV industry leaders to support African stations with the transition to digital broadcasting. In addition, he wrote a guide with tips for African station managers used by broadcast regulators in every African country and worked with the African Telecommunications Union to usher in television digital migration. He organized global video conferences (long before Zoom) and has moderated panels on the topic at major conferences and forums across the continent.

In 2006 he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Broadcasters (TAB). TAB is the largest state broadcasting association in the United States. In 2007 TAB named him Texas Broadcaster of the Year.

Before entering the broadcast arena, Beal was a Global Webmaster for Dell, the first person with that title at any company. Dell pioneered Internet commerce. His website received the Intranet Award for Excellence and his team was known for pioneering in personalization and self-service web applications. While at Dell, he purchased radio stations KTXJ-FM and KCOX in Jasper, TX; KCLW in Hamilton, TX and KOKE in Austin, TX.

He left Dell in 2001 to focus on broadcasting and education, donating web design and video production classes to the Historically Black College, Huston-Tillotson University. In 2007, Beal pioneered broadcasting high school sports on the Internet, carrying 10 football and basketball games from 10 different cities weekly. Before Dell, he was Director of Marketing for Motown Records.

Beal has held positions ranging from chemist, talk show host, software engineer and music producer, to Editor-and-Chief of major magazines and trade journals, reporter for media giants like the Los Angeles Times and a record company executive. His experiences in the broadcasting and music industries, technology, journalism and open data, make him an excellent resource for learning how to take advantage of innovation and the new media landscape.

In August, 2022, Beal received the African Impact Award during The Voice Achievers Awards held in The Gambia, validating his decade of efforts to improve the African continent.

