



Keith W. Cooley
President and Chief Executive Officer
NEXTEnergy

Keith W. Cooley is President and CEO of *NextEnergy*, one of the nation's leading accelerators of alternative and renewable energy. He and his team facilitate strategic consortia for applied research, connect ventures and emerging technologies to strategic partners, and help companies find pathways to participation in this rapidly expanding industry. At the heart of this are the core drivers of the promise of innovation, the challenge of commercialization, and the power of collaboration to meet the future energy needs of our nation and the world.

Prior to joining *NextEnergy*, Cooley was the Director of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) and a cabinet member to the Governor of the State of Michigan. In this capacity, he directed the activities of more than 4,000 employees in 35 agencies and managed a \$1.4 billion budget. His principal objective was to “up-skill” Michigan’s workforce to compete in a global community and provide opportunities for economic recovery.

He has played significant roles with General Electric, General Motors and Motorola, and was CEO of *Focus: HOPE*, where he championed the work of this celebrated civil and human rights organization in workforce development serving underrepresented urban youth.

His professional activities and affiliations include the Engineering Society of Detroit and boards of trustees for The University of Michigan Engineering Advisory Board, the MI Environmental Council, the MI Climate Action Council, and the MI Strategic Economic Investment and Commercialization Board. Previous Board Service includes the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, Bioscience Research & Commercialization Center (BRCC), Workforce Innovation for Regional Economic Development (WIRED), and the University Prep Academy.

He has been recognized in *Who's Who in the World*, Tau Beta Pi Eminent Engineer, and the General Motors President's Council Honors. He is a life member of the National Black MBA Association and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honorary Society.

Cooley received a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering physics and a Master of Science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan in 1967 and 1972, respectively. As a graduate student, he founded the Minority Engineering Programs Office at the College of Engineering. In addition, he was a gymnast – the first African-American to compete in that sport at Michigan – and was a member of the university’s 1966 Big Ten Championship team.