

Bio for Dr. Billy C. Hawkins

Dr. Billy C. Hawkins has served as president of Talladega College since January 1, 2008. During his distinguished tenure as the institution's 20th president, he has stabilized finances; increased fundraising; expanded academic offerings; successfully guided the institution through a ten year SACS accreditation; and led the College in reaching record-breaking enrollment increases.

Under his leadership, Talladega College has been completely transformed and revitalized. During his first year at the College, he implemented rigorous plans for renovation and growth. As a result of his vision, enrollment doubled from just over 300 students to 601 students in one semester; athletic programs were reinstated for the first time in ten years; and major campus beautification projects were undertaken. Today Talladega College has 1217 student and is listed among the Princeton Review's best colleges in the Southeast and U.S. News and World Report's best regional colleges and best HBCUs.

The campus is undergoing a major physical transformation. A new residence hall opens soon; a student center is under construction; and ground has been broken on the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art, which will house Hale Woodruff's Amistad Murals. The College has also launched its first-ever graduate program, an online Master of Science in Computer Information Systems.

Dr. Hawkins spearheaded a similar transformation at Texas College, where he also served as the 20th president. Prior to his arrival, the College had lost both its accreditation and its membership in the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). During his 7-year tenure, which began December 1, 2000, the institution flourished. There was an 82% increase in student enrollment within the first ten months of his arrival. Under his leadership, the institution regained accreditation in 2001, stabilized its finances, and also regained its membership in the UNCF. Dr. Hawkins implemented five new academic programs, constructed three new facilities, remodeled all academic and student service facilities, procured property assets, eliminated all long-term debt, and started seven new athletic programs which won three championships. As a result of this remarkable turnaround, the college received a new 10 year accreditation in 2006.

Prior to joining Texas College, Dr. Hawkins served as Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Education at Mississippi Valley State University. During his tenure at Mississippi Valley State, he developed and proposed 18 new academic programs; increased internet accessibility and computer access for students and faculty; spearheaded diverse innovative faculty development initiatives; and re-engineered the registration process.

Dr. Hawkins began his career as an educator in the Lansing Michigan Public Schools System. His passion for teaching led him to the field of higher education where he has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia; Acting Dean, Associate Dean, and Assistant Dean/Professor in the College of Education at Ferris State

University; and Director of Educational Opportunity Program, State University of New York at Morrisville College.

A prominent leader in the field of education, Dr. Hawkins has been interviewed on various television programs, including the O'Reilly Factor with Bill O'Reilly, the ABC Evening News with the late Peter Jennings, and many local and regional programs. In addition, he had been featured in publications such as *Alabama Business Magazine*, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* and *U.S. News and World Report*.

Dr. Hawkins serves as vice-chair of member institutions for the UNCF board of directors. He is the first African American to chair the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the author of two books, and a member of the Talladega Rotary Club, the Delta Upsilon Boulé and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He is a recipient of the Vanguard Award from the Higher Education Leadership Foundation, the Colonel Leo Thorsness Courage Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc's Graduate Citizen of the Year Award and the Theta Tau Chapter's Citizenship Award. Quality of Life Health Services named Dr. Hawkins a "Hero in Healthcare for 2018."

The Kent, Ohio native holds a B.S. in Teacher Education from Ferris State University; an M.A. in Education Administration from Central Michigan University; and a Ph.D. in Education from Michigan State University. He has completed post doctorate study at Harvard University. Dr. Hawkins and his wife Lucy reside in Talladega, AL.