

Earl G. Yarbrough Sr., Ph.D

President

Savannah State University

Earl G. Yarbrough Sr., Ph.D., was named the 12th president of Savannah State University by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents on May 30, 2007.

Yarbrough began his career in higher education in 1976 at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His dedicated service and “student-oriented approach” to academics quickly gained him recognition by his peers and administration, and led to a promotion as university planner. Yarbrough’s work would later lead to his appointment as chair of the industrial technology program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1984, where he served until 1986. As chair, he revised the academic program, increased student enrollment and was responsible for the development and implementation of a highly successful technology transfer and symposium program.

In 1986, he was appointed the founding dean of the School of Technology at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. As dean at North Carolina A&T, Yarbrough expanded the degree programs to include a master’s and consortium doctoral degrees with several other universities while also obtaining state funding for the construction of an \$8 million technology building. He also worked to garner more than \$15 million in research grants, gifts and contracts that supported undergraduate and graduate programs, equipment and student scholarships. Under his leadership, all programs were accredited by the National Association for Industrial Technology.

In 1998, Yarbrough was selected as provost and vice president for Academic and Student Affairs at Virginia State University (VSU) in Petersburg, Virginia. As chief academic officer for the university, he managed over \$75 million in state and federal funds, tuition and fees, research dollars, grants and gifts to the university. Under his leadership as provost, he directed the university’s five-year strategic plan and the day-to-day academic concerns of the institution. Yarbrough provided the direction for the establishment of the School of Engineering, Science and Technology and the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach during



his tenure. One of the more notable accomplishments of his career at VSU was the establishment of five new degree programs—the first in over 20 years at the university—and the first doctoral program.

A native of Wichita, Kansas, Yarbrough holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in industrial education from Wichita State University; a Master of Arts degree in industrial studies from California State University at Los Angeles, and a doctorate in industrial education from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Yarbrough is a graduate of the Kellogg Foundation Minority Serving Institution Leadership Program and the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, has written numerous articles for scholarly publications and is recognized for his accreditation work with the National Association for Industrial Technology.

Yarbrough and his wife Patricia have four children: Kim, Angela, Delmar and Earl Jr.

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