

President Stephen R. Briggs

Dr. Steve Briggs is a nationally recognized advocate for exceptional undergraduate experiences who became Berry College's eighth president on July 1, 2006. He was drawn to Berry by its distinctive educational approach, enterprising spirit, and amazing campus.

With his leadership, the college has renewed its emphasis on a residential experience that unites challenging academics with practical, firsthand experiences. He promotes a clear learning principle: students grow in responsibility as they are given meaningful responsibility. Virtually all students at Berry work on campus as part of an education that makes them life-ready.

In recent years, Berry has increased its academic offerings. Sciences are the largest area of study, but there are strong programs in the humanities and arts as well as business, education, nursing, and creative technologies. The college has opened or renovated a dozen buildings and has established more than fifteen student enterprises. Berry has also created a remarkable new scholarship program which enables a hundred students to work their way through college, thereby graduating with experience rather than with debt.

During this same period, Berry has added six new varsity sports, upgraded all of its athletic facilities, and made the transition from NAIA to NCAA-Division III. The college also collaborated in the opening of the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College, one of the largest facilities in the country with 60 hard-surface courts. Berry now competes as a founding member of the Southern Athletic Association.

Dr. Briggs is a creative and principled leader with more than 30 years of experience in academic and strategic positions at colleges in Oklahoma, Florida and New Jersey. He has previously served on the Board of Trustees for the SACSCOC and the Board of Directors for the Council of Independent Colleges. He is currently a member of the D-III Nominating Committee.

A personality psychologist by training, Dr. Briggs earned his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, and is the author of more than two dozen scholarly articles and essays as well as two edited books. He and his wife Brenda are both graduates of Wake Forest University; they have three grown daughters.