



*The Presidential  
Inauguration*

*of*

MIKE HOBBS, PH.D.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

*Providing access since 1970.*

FOR OUR STUDENTS. FOR OUR COMMUNITY.



# *About Mike Hobbs, Ph.D.*

Mike Hobbs became the President of Georgia Highlands College in July 2022. Originally from Ensley, Ala., Hobbs is a first-generation high school graduate and a first-generation college graduate. He earned an associate degree in applied science from Jefferson State and completed his bachelor's in criminal justice from the University of Alabama – Birmingham (UAB). He also earned his master's



degree in education supervision and leadership from UAB and completed his Ph.D. in community college leadership from Mississippi State University. He has also completed post-graduate coursework in economics from the University of Detroit Mercy. Prior to joining Jefferson State, Hobbs served as coordinator of Admission Services at UAB. Hobbs' previous roles at Jefferson State include dean of Enrollment Services, director of Enrollment Services, coordinator of Transfer Advising and Dual Enrollment and professor of economics. In addition to teaching at Jefferson State, he has been an adjunct instructor in economics at Samford University in Birmingham and in higher education for the executive Ed.D. program at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Most recently, Hobbs served as vice president for Jefferson State where he played a key role leading the college's efforts to increase overall cohort graduation by 200%, student retention by 22% and transfer-out rate to four-year schools by 20%. He also supported capital campaigns that generated more than \$50 million for Jefferson State and the St. Clair County School Board.

Dr. Hobbs resides in Cartersville and is blessed with a three children, Olivia, Hudson, and Hannah.

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## *Our Mission*

The mission of Georgia Highlands College, a state college of the University System of Georgia, is to provide access to excellent educational opportunities for the intellectual, cultural, and physical development of a diverse population through pre-baccalaureate associate degree transfer programs, career associate degree programs, and targeted baccalaureate degree programs that meet the economic development needs of the region.

## *Our Vision*

To be the premier public, multi-campus institution of choice throughout our region, while serving as the state leader in transfer and retention within our sector.

## *Presidents of Floyd College / Georgia Highlands College*

David B. McCorkle, Ed.D.  
President Emeritus  
1970 - 1991

H. Lynn Cundiff, Ph.D.  
1992 - 2000

John Randolph Pierce, Ph.D.  
President Emeritus  
2001- 2011

Donald J. Green, Ed.D.  
2014 - 2021

Mike Hobbs, Ph.D.  
2022 - Present

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# *The History of Georgia Highlands College*

Since 1970, Georgia Highlands College has served the Northwest Georgia community with a solid educational foundation with two-year and four-year degree options. Originally founded as Floyd Junior College, GHC is now an access mission state college of the University System of Georgia and serves students throughout Georgia.

In 1968, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized the establishment of Floyd Junior College in Floyd County. Under the board's policy, the local community provided a campus site and funds for the construction of the initial facilities. Led by the Junior College Committee headed by Rome attorney Mr. J.D. Maddox, Floyd County citizens responded enthusiastically by approving a \$3.2 million bond issue by a margin of nearly three to one. Construction began in early 1970. The college's first classes were offered during the fall quarter of 1970 in temporary facilities. At the end of that year, all operations were moved to the new campus on Highway 27 (Cedartown Highway), six miles south of Rome.

Dr. David B. McCorkle became the first president of Floyd Junior College on January 1, 1970, and served in that position until June 30, 1991. Following Dr. McCorkle's retirement, Dr. Richard Trimble was appointed acting president of the college and served until the November 1992 selection of Dr. H. Lynn Cundiff as the college's second president. Dr. Cundiff left the college in August 2000. During the 2001 academic year, Mr. Robert Watts served as interim president. The Board of Regents named Dr. J. Randolph Pierce the third president of Floyd College on June 15, 2001. Dr. Pierce retired in December 2011, and Mr. Robert Watts once again became interim president until May 2012 when Dr. Renva Watterson became interim president. She served at the post until the Board of Regents named Dr. Donald J. Green the fourth president, beginning his duties on September 8, 2014. Dr. Dana Nichols became the Interim President of Georgia Highlands College in July 2021. She served as interim until the Board of Regents named Dr. Mike Hobbs the fifth president. Dr. Hobbs began his duties on July 1, 2022.

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# Key Dates in History

- In 1970, Georgia Highlands College was founded.
- In 1971, GHC's first commencement was an informal ceremony held in the presence of officials and family for the first and only graduate.
- In 1973, the GHC Foundation was founded to serve as a vital link between the institution and the communities the college serves.
- In 1994, the college opened Heritage Hall in downtown Rome to be more accessible to the working student.
- In Fall 2005, the college changed its name to Georgia Highlands College to reflect the more regional nature of its service area.
- In Fall 2005, the new campus and building in Cartersville on Route 20 was dedicated, and the college also began offering classes in Marietta on the campus of Southern Polytechnic State University.
- In 2009, the Paulding instructional site opened in the town square of Dallas. That same year, GHC ventured into Douglas County occupying modular housing behind Chapel Hill High School until more permanent quarters were renovated on Stewart Parkway. The college moved its Douglasville site to the new facility in 2010 and later relocated to another facility on Bill Arp Road in 2020 until it closed in 2022.
- In April 2011, GHC announced the establishment of competitive athletics, an initiative requested and voted on by students.
- In May 2011, the Board of Regents approved the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, thus making the institution a state college.
- In Fall 2012, a second building—the new student center—opened on the Cartersville site.
- In Summer 2014, the Board of Regents approved the creation of a Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene making it the college's second baccalaureate degree.
- In 2016, the Board of Regents approved the creation of a Bachelor of Business Administration in healthcare management and a Bachelor of Business Administration in logistics and supply chain management.
- In 2018, GHC partnered with Dalton State College and Georgia Southwestern State University to offer students an online Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice through the University System of Georgia (USG) eMajor initiative.
- In January 2019, classes started in GHC's new academic building in Cartersville. The 52,000-square foot building is focused on STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) areas of study.
- In 2020, GHC started offering students the Bachelor of Science in Health Science to meet the market demand for the quickly expanding healthcare sector in Georgia.
- In 2022, GHC expanded its Marietta site from KSU Marietta campus to 1090 Northchase Parkway.
- In Spring 2023, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resources was added making it GHC's 8th bachelor's degree.



# Order of Ceremony

FANFARE	<i>Herald for Highlands</i> by Sam Baltzer Performed by Northwest Georgia Winds Ensemble Sam Baltzer, Director
PROCESSIONAL*	<i>MacPherson's Procession</i> Traditional, arranged by Sam Baltzer  Mace Bearer - Steve Stuglin <i>Associate Professor of Communication</i>  Grand Marshal - Frank Minor <i>Professor of English</i>  Delegates from Institutions of Higher Education GHC Academic Deans GHC Division Chairs GHC Faculty Platform Party Chancellor of the University System of Georgia President of Georgia Highlands College
POSTING OF COLORS*	Honor Guard <i>Cartersville Fire Department</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM*	<i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i> by Francis Scott Key  Performed by Battalion Chief Tim McClung <i>Cartersville Fire Department</i>
PRESIDING	Regent Cade Joiner <i>Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia</i>
INVOCATION	Pastor Larry Adams <i>Mt. Zion Baptist Church</i>
GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDENT	VIDEO PRESENTATION  ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS Jalen Hudson <i>President, Student Government Association</i>

*\*please stand*

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# Order of Ceremony

GREETINGS TO  
THE PRESIDENT

ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF  
Vicky Drnek  
*Chair-Elect, Staff Council*

ON BEHALF OF THE FACULTY  
Associate Professor Kim Subacz  
*President, Faculty Senate*

ON BEHALF OF THE ALUMNI  
Captain Orry Young  
*Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient*

ON BEHALF OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Randy Quick  
*Chair, Foundation Board of Trustees*

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
Regent Lowery May  
*Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION

Anat Sultan-Dadon  
*Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States*

Rabbi Larry Sernovitz  
*CEO, Hillels of Georgia*

MUSICAL  
INTERLUDE

*Captain America March*  
by Alan Silvestri

INVESTITURE

CHARGE TO THE PRESIDENT &  
PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION  
Sonny Perdue  
*Chancellor, University System of Georgia*

INAUGURAL  
ADDRESS

Mike Hobbs  
*President, Georgia Highlands College*

ALMA MATER\*  
*Lyrics on back cover*

Peighton Williamson, *GHC Alumna*

BENEDICTION\*

Pastor Rick Hopkins  
*Good Samaritan Baptist Church*

RECESSIONAL\*

*LaBoum Recessional*  
Traditional, arranged by Sam Baltzer

*Please join us for a reception immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony.*

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# Platform Party

**Chancellor Sonny Perdue**  
The University System of Georgia

**Dr. Mike Hobbs**  
President of  
Georgia Highlands College

**Regent Cade Joiner**  
USG Board of Regents

**Regent Lowery May**  
USG Board of Regents

**Pastor Larry Adams**  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

**Anat Sultan-Dadon**  
Consul General of Israel to the  
Southeastern United States

**Jalen Hudson**  
President, Student Government  
Association

**Rabbi Larry Sernovitz**  
CEO, Hillels of Georgia

**Vicky Drnek**  
Chair-Elect, Staff Council

**Pastor Rick Hopkins**  
Good Samaritan Baptist Church

**Kim Subacz**  
President, Faculty Senate

**Dr. Sarah Coakley**  
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

**Captain Orry Young**  
Distinguished Alumni  
Award Recipient

**Jamie Petty**  
Vice President of Finance and  
Administration

**Randy Quick**  
Chair, GHC Foundation  
Board of Trustees

## Greetings and Proclamations

*Letters of congratulations from institutions and proclamations received from local governments are on display in the lobby during the ceremony.\**

Agnes Scott College	City of Rome	Paulding County
Bartow County	Cobb County	SACSCOC
Berry College	Floyd County	University of Georgia
City of Cartersville	Georgia Gwinnett College	University of West Georgia
City of Dallas	Georgia State University	Valdosta State University
City of Marietta	Kennesaw State University	

*\*list as of 9/19/23*



# Inauguration Delegates

*We welcome the following representatives\* listed by institution founding date who join the Georgia Highlands College inauguration procession.*

1785  
University of Georgia  
Dr. Elizabeth Weeks  
Associate Provost

1852  
Gordon State College  
Joanne Ardovini  
Provost

1873  
Shorter University  
Dr. Ben Bruce  
Vice President of  
University Advancement

1873  
University of North Georgia  
Dr. Michael Shannon  
President

1884  
Middle Georgia State  
University  
Dr. David Jenks  
Provost and Vice President  
of Academic Affairs

1885  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology  
Dr. Ece Erdogmus  
Chair of the School of  
Building Construction

1889  
Georgia College and  
State University  
Dr. Cathy Cox  
President

1895  
Fort Valley State  
University  
Dr. Emily  
Bennett-Williams  
Chief of Staff

1906  
Georgia Southern University  
Dr. Dustin Anderson  
Associate Provost

1906  
South Georgia State College  
Dr. Greg Tanner  
Interim President

1906  
University of West Georgia  
Dr. Jenny Schuessler  
Dean of Nursing

1906  
Valdosta State University  
Dr. Richard Carvajal  
President

1908  
Abraham Baldwin  
Agricultural College  
Dr. Tracy Brundage  
President

1958  
Columbus State University  
Dr. Stuart Rayfield  
President

1961  
College of Coastal Georgia  
Dr. Michelle Johnston  
President

1962  
Georgia Northwestern  
Technical College  
Dr. Heidi Popham  
President

1963  
Chattahoochee Technical  
College  
Dr. Ron Newcomb  
President

1963  
Dalton State College  
Dr. Bruno Hicks  
Provost & Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

1963  
Kennesaw State University  
Dr. Sheb True  
Associate Vice Provost  
for Global Engagement,  
Strategic Initiatives, and  
Enrollment Services

1969  
Clayton State College  
Dr. Georj Lewis  
President

1973  
East Georgia State College  
Dr. David Schector  
President

1974  
Atlanta Metropolitan  
State College  
Dr. Ingrid Thompson-  
Sellers  
President

2006  
Georgia Gwinnett College  
Dr. Matthew Robison  
Associate Provost for  
Student Affairs and Dean  
of Students

# Academic Symbols

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

Distinctive academic regalia is a notable feature of all formal functions of colleges and universities throughout the world. The use of a particular kind of apparel to distinguish university scholars evolved in Europe during the earliest days of these schools. Since there was an intimate relationship between the early universities and the church, a large number of scholars were prepared for the priesthood, and many of the faculty were clergymen. The adopted garb was similar to that worn by the clergy, although differing enough in design to set the scholars apart from the churchmen.

There are three types of gowns, three styles of hoods and two kinds of cap tassels included in American academic costume. The bachelor's gown is without ornamentation and has long, pointed and open sleeves; the master's gown is similar, but has even longer sleeves, which are closed at the bottom (there are openings about midway for the hands); the doctor's gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars. The master's gown may be worn either open or closed.

All hoods are lined with the colors of the institution granting the degree and faced with the traditional color of the primary field of study. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood is three and a half; the doctor's hood is four. The doctor's hood has wide set panels. The major field of study can be determined from the facing on the hood according to the following schemes: arts-white, science-gold/yellow, nursing-apricot, physical education-green, business

administration-drab, librarianship-lemon, education-blue.

## THE GONFALONS

Gonfalons, ceremonial banners or pennants suspended from a crossbar, are used by many institutions of higher education to add ceremony to commencement exercises and formal academic occasions. Gonfalons date back to medieval Italy where they were used as symbols of office or state.

## THE MACE

The Georgia Highlands College mace was designed by David Mott, retired Associate Professor of Art, and Dr. David Cook, retired Professor of Biology. The mace, a great and splendid staff, is actually a club and a symbolic weapon. Medieval universities would not defend themselves with the sword. It was not considered appropriate for gentle scholars to draw blood, but they could defend themselves using a cudgel. The mace has come to stand as a symbol for two critical matters. First, it stands for the freedom of the academy to seek the truth and to teach it. It also stands for the authority of the academy. The mace makes the statement that the academy must protect the ideals of order, liberty, and the freedom to learn.

## THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The President of the college wears the medallion as a sign of authority. The Georgia Highlands College medallion is embossed with the college seal on the front. The back of the medallion is now engraved with the names of each former and current president of the college.



## *The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

Doug Aldridge  
Tom Bradbury  
Richard “Tim” Evans  
W. Allen Gudenrath  
Erin Hames (Vice Chair)  
Samuel D. Holmes  
Bárbara Rivera Holmes  
C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., MD  
James M. Hull  
Cade Joiner

Patrick C. Jones  
C. Everett Kennedy, III  
Sarah-Elizabeth Langford  
Lowery Houston May  
Jose R. Perez  
Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.  
Harold Reynolds (Chair)  
T. Dallas Smith  
James K. Syfan, III

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia was created in 1931 as a part of a reorganization of Georgia’s state government. With this act, public higher education in Georgia was unified for the first time under a single governing and management authority. The governor appoints members of the Board to a seven year term and regents may be reappointed to subsequent terms by a sitting governor. Regents donate their time and expertise to serve the state through their governance of the University System of Georgia – the position is a voluntary one without financial remuneration. Today the Board of Regents is composed of 19 members, five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large, and one from each of the state’s 14 congressional districts. The Board elects a chancellor who serves as its chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the University System. The Board oversees the public colleges and universities that comprise the University System of Georgia and has oversight of the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Public Library Service.

## *The Chancellor of the University System of Georgia*

Dr. Sonny Perdue  
Chancellor

The Chancellor provides leadership in higher education and stewardship of state and University System resources by promoting a statewide perspective on higher education that attends to the current and developing needs of the State, its citizens and students, and relates them effectively to the University System and its institutions. The Chancellor supports the Board of Regents in furthering and achieving its vision for the University System by providing leadership in analyzing, monitoring, and anticipating higher education trends and developments, and by planning strategically for the future of the University System. The Chancellor also serves on the Georgia-based Alliance of Education Agency Heads, a collaborative partnership with the Governor’s office and Georgia’s education agency heads.



# Foundation Board of Trustees

## OFFICERS

D. Randy Quick  
*Chairman & Treasurer*

Greg Patton  
*Past Chairman*

Sarah Bradfield  
*Ex. Director of Advancement*

Liz Jones  
*Director of Foundation Services*

## TRUSTEES

Dr. Lance Barry

Dee Bishop

David Caswell

Melanie Collier

Gayland Cooper, Ph.D.

Bryan Holland

J. Luke Lester

Steve Moore

Sally Platt

Sue Spivey

Tommy Strickland

Mark Weaver

Cindy Williams

Dr. Mike Hobbs,  
Ex-Officio  
*GHC President*

Jamie Petty, Ex-Officio  
*GHC Vice President*  
*Finance & Administration*

Georgia Highlands College Foundation, Inc., has been committed to supporting the college since 1973 and serves as a vitallink between the institution and the communities the college serves. Foundation trustees work closely with the institution to support advancement activities including development of a comprehensive campaign strategy with major gifts, annual fund, and planned giving programs. Through these efforts, donations received provide much needed scholarships and support special funding initiatives and services.

The leadership provided by the foundation trustees is essential to the success of the college and the students who attend. As a regional, multi-campus institution serving Northwest Georgia, Georgia Highlands is indebted to the community leaders who serve as foundation trustees and to the many donors who support the mission of GHC and embrace its vision.



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*Alma Mater*

*My heart's at the Highlands, the school I hold dear  
Where good friends and mentors are always so near.  
One college united in perfect harmony,  
My Alma Mater, dear GHC.*

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**GHC**

**GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE**

University System of Georgia

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