



Dr. Rosemary M. Thomas President of Chowan University

The appointment of Dr. Rosemary M. Thomas as the 24th president of Chowan University marks a historic milestone for the institution. Her exceptional qualifications, dedication to community service, and proven leadership abilities make her the ideal candidate to lead Chowan University into its next chapter as a life skills university and foundation of Christian education, to which she is deeply committed.

Dr. Thomas brings a wealth of experience to her role as president which began on March 11, 2024. Having served as the Executive Vice President at Davis and Elkins College. In that position, she was responsible for enrollment management, marketing and communications, oversight of the dean of student life, dining services, compliance, and special assignments from the president. She also served as Acting Director of Athletics and led the COVID-19 Task Force.

Her first assignment at Davis and Elkins College began in 2017 when she was hired as the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Institutional Advancement. Most notably, during that tenure, she successfully implemented a campus-wide retention initiative and was vital in completing a \$100M fundraising campaign.

Prior to her time at Davis and Elkins College, Dr. Thomas held various leadership positions at institutions such as Frostburg State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Salisbury University, and Glenville State College. She served as the Chief Operating Officer at the General Foundation of Women's Clubs International Office in Washington, DC. Her extensive background in university and foundation management has equipped her with the leadership skills that are essential to leading Chowan University into the future.

Dr. Thomas is also deeply committed to community service and volunteerism. She is a life member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, director of American Legion Auxiliary Rhododendron Girls State, and president of the Community Care of West Virginia board of directors, to name a few. Her dedication to these organizations reflects her passion for making a positive impact in the communities she serves.

As a nationally recognized speaker and workshop leader, Dr. Thomas has shared her expertise on board relations, volunteer management, fundraising, and marketing strategies. Her focus on leadership development has been instrumental in shaping the lives of leaders from all walks of life.

Dr. Thomas is a proud native of Fairmont, West Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Communications from Clemson University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from West Virginia University. She has also completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University.



CHOWAN UNIVERSITY