

ROBERT L. POTTS

Robert L. Potts was named Chancellor of the North Dakota University System on March 19, 2004, and assumed his duties in North Dakota on July 1, 2004. He resigned as chancellor effective August 4, 2006, and now serves as a consultant to the NDUS;. Previously, he served for fourteen and one half years as President of the University of North Alabama and for six years as General Counsel for the University of Alabama System. In North Dakota, Potts was Chief Executive Officer for the University System that contains eleven campuses with approximately 42,000 students and has a biennial budget that exceeds \$1.4 billion. His work in North Dakota focused on creating a statewide collaborative plan for increasing the number of international students attracted to the state, continuing successful implementation of a new higher education administrative software system, continuing the highly acclaimed Higher Education Roundtable process that has successfully aligned the higher education system with the needs of the state, assisting in crafting and implementing the first \$20 million stage of a \$50 million Economic Centers of Excellence program for system campuses, and assisting in creating and serving as a member on a P-16 Education Task Force for the state.

During the Potts tenure as President of the University of North Alabama the institution made significant progress. Under his leadership, the administrative structure of the University was streamlined, a shared governance decision making structure was implemented, higher admissions standards were adopted, a University Development and Advancement Office was established and the University's first capital campaign was successfully completed, a Child Development Center was created at Kilby Laboratory School, an annual fall convocation for new students is now held, and the University enhanced its presence in the State Capital through a cooperative effort with other state universities. An international program was created and expanded to more than 250 international students, and two new degree programs - a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in English – were approved by the state coordinating board and implemented by the University. Additionally, a campus master plan was completed and implemented with several construction projects (academic buildings, parking deck, stadium renovation, student recreation center, four new residence halls, pedestrian walkways and plaza) that were funded largely by federal grants, private gifts, and revenue bonds. An automation project modernized the computing capability on campus, and an Academic Resource Center was established. Moreover, during his Presidency, University athletic teams won five National Championships at the NCAA Division II level.

Potts is immediate past Chair of the Academic Policy Committee of the State Higher Education Executive Officers. He served on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges, is an experienced site visitor for accrediting groups, and has chaired reaffirmation site visit teams. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and as chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents. He previously served on Boards of Trustees of Alabama State University and Oakwood College. He has taught at Boston University, the University of Alabama, and at UNA. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), where during his tenure as Chair in 1995, the Board adopted a Multistate Performance Test for use by state bar examiners. In 2001, he was selected by NCBE to represent it for a two-year term in the American Bar Association House of Delegates. He is a former Chairman of the Alabama Board of Bar Examiners. He has served on the Board of Advisors of the Beville Center for Advanced Environmental Technology, on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Motorists Association, and as Chair of the Board of the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame. Potts is past chairman of the Board of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium that oversees the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and is composed of twenty-two Alabama colleges and universities. He has served as president of the Gulf South Conference, an NCAA Division II athletic conference consisting of eighteen colleges and universities in six states. United States Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley appointed Potts to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for two terms that extended through September 2001. He served a three-year term on the law school accreditation Standards Review Committee for the American Bar Association, and as a member of the Commission on Minorities in Higher Education of the American Council on Education. Potts also served on the Secretary of the Army's ROTC Program Subcommittee and in February 1999, was selected as Chair of that group, where he served until 2001. He was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the Department of the Army for his work with this group. He has testified on behalf of higher education before state legislative and U.S. Senate committees.

Potts attended Newbold College in England and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree cum laude from Southern Adventist University in Tennessee. He obtained a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he served as Alabama Editor of the *Alabama Law Review*. After clerking for the U.S. District Court Chief Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Potts received a Master of Laws Degree from Harvard University. Before entering higher education on a full-time basis in 1984, Potts practiced law in Florence, Alabama, where educational issues were a significant part of his practice. He has lectured widely on legal and education topics and is the author of several published articles.

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven appointed Potts as a Commissioner on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact and on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, where he was a member of the Executive Committee. Potts also served on the North Dakota Commerce Cabinet and as a member of the North Dakota State Board for Career and Technical Education. 10/06