

James W. Wagner

Noted scholar and teacher, during your more than 30 years in academia, you were a champion of research and dedicated yourself to ensuring that faculty and students had the funding, resources, and support they needed to advance the academic discourse and make breakthroughs in their fields.

You began your academic career right here, at the University of Delaware, where you earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. You then went on to obtain your master's and doctoral degrees in engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

After working for a decade as an electronics engineer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, you returned to academia, bringing your practical knowledge to the next generation of engineers. You taught at Johns Hopkins University for 13 years, rising to the level of professor and serving as chairman of the department of materials science and engineering.

You have authored more than 115 publications and are a Charter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. You are noted for your contributions to your field, particularly in testing technologies, where you used laser-based testing that made it possible to evaluate the performance of materials without destroying them. In 2009, you were appointed by President Obama as vice chair of the Presidential Commission on Bioethical Issues.

Champion of academic progress, you shifted your career focus to higher education administration in the late 1990s when you moved to Case Western Reserve University and took on the role of dean and later provost and interim president.

You left Case Western in 2004 to assume the presidency at Emory University. No doubt, the people of Case Western were sorry to see you leave. In just a few years there, you achieved much and set the university on a forward-thinking trajectory. You established a groundbreaking joint degree program in engineering and management, appointed a vice provost for planning and assessment, reconfigured the university's

research and technology transfer function, oversaw the establishment of a Postdoctoral Researchers Association, and enhanced undergraduate education and student life.

Visionary academic leader, you arrived at Emory not only with an accurate picture of what the university was, but also with a determined belief in what it could become. You recognized that Emory was poised for greatness. You assumed the helm and steered toward that goal.

You began by crafting a vision statement for the university that laid the groundwork for the first-ever strategic plan in the school's more than 150-year history. You set out to attract top-tier faculty to Emory, and you succeeded. When you began your tenure, just 13 faculty members were elected to national academies. By the time you left, that number had more than tripled to 47. You led a campaign to create 42 endowments for faculty and chairs and an astounding 358 endowments for scholarship, research, academic programs, and faculty.

Even as funding dollars were shrinking nationally, you saw to it that Emory's share increased from \$319 million to \$572 million, enabling the university to develop world-class programs in areas such as cancer research and biomedical engineering. In addition, you headed a comprehensive campaign that raised \$1.7 billion.

Not only did the university begin to attract more and better-qualified students, but it also transformed the experience for those students by creating new physical and online spaces to support an innovative curriculum. Some 25 major building projects or renovations were completed under your watch.

You oversaw the establishment of the Institute for Developing Nations to promote interdisciplinary scholarship on development, and you created a joint biomedical engineering Ph.D. program that paired Emory's Biomedical Engineering program with that of Peking University in China. Similarly, you reached out to Queensland University in Australia and formed the Queensland Emory Development Alliance to collaborate on new drugs and vaccines for treating cancer and infectious diseases.

Because of your myriad accomplishments in your 13-year presidency, Emory University made immense strides and now ranks among the country's great universities.

Abraham Lincoln, one of our country's greatest presidents and most visionary leaders, said, "Determine that the thing can and shall be done and then we shall find the way." As president of Emory University, you took that direction to heart. You saw the future, and you made it happen.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, James W. Wagner, the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

John R. Cochran, Chair

May 27, 2017