

## **Robert J. Exley, Ph.D.**

Dr. Robert Exley has served as the 17<sup>th</sup> President of Snead State Community College in Boaz, Ala., since January 2008. During his nearly 13-year tenure in Alabama, Dr. Exley focused on providing a compassionate campus experience for students and staff with an emphasis on academic excellence and civic engagement. His own higher education experience began at the community college level and has provided a foundation for his passion to encourage well-rounded citizens through comprehensive higher education opportunities.

Dr. Exley has deep Texas roots. He received his Associate of Arts degree from San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas, his BA and MS from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin.

In May 2007, Dr. Exley was named a Distinguished Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin's Community College Leadership Program in recognition of his national contribution to American Community Colleges.

His heart for robust student activities and programming stems from his own community college campus involvement. While a student at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, TX., he served as the 1979-1980 National President of Phi Theta Kappa. He remains active and involved in the organization, and in January 2014, Phi Theta Kappa honored Dr. Exley with the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

His empathy and understanding for faculty come through his own teaching experiences. Dr. Exley has taught courses for The University of Alabama's Executive Ed.D. Program, Iowa State University's graduate program in Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Snead State Community College, San Jacinto College, and Miami-Dade College.

Athletics holds a special place for Dr. Exley. He currently serves as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association Board of Regents, the NJCAA Presidents Advisory Committee and as President of the Alabama Community College Conference's Executive Committee.

In addition to campus life, Dr. Exley encourages workforce development and community partnership. In August 2017, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey appointed Dr. Exley to the North Alabama Works! Area Local Workforce Development Board.

Dr. Exley believes community partnership is a cornerstone of a successful community college. He served as co-chair of the Vision Marshall Steering Committee and on the Valley Innovation Alliance Leadership Committee. He is actively engaged with the Marshall County Economic Development Council, the Marshall County Manufacturers Association, and the Boaz Rotary Club. He is a member of Leadership Alabama Class XXVII.

Dr. Exley's focus on community college excellence is not limited to his own campus. He serves as a committee chair and/or member of both off-site and on-site evaluation committees for the

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) on a regular basis.

In recognition of his current college's recent achievements, it was recently announced that Snead State Community College is a Top 150 Institution eligible for the 2021 Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence. Snead State Community College is an historic college founded as a private institution in 1898 in northeastern Alabama, was chartered in 1935 as the first two-year degree granting institution in Alabama, and in 1967 became part of the Alabama two-year college system.

Prior to his time in Alabama, he served as President of Parkland College in Champaign, Ill., and as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He also held a number of administrative positions with Miami-Dade College (MDC) over a nearly 10-year period.

While at MDC, he helped establish the College's nationally recognized service-learning program – winner of the Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges 1998 Collaboration Award and in 1997 the National Council of Instructional Administrators' Exemplary Program in Student Learning Award.

Dr. Exley is married to Anita Cross Exley, a fellow community college graduate who serves on multiple foundation boards and charitable and civic organizations in the community. They have two adult children – Will Exley and Heather Feimster and two grandsons who keep them young – Luke Feimster (7 years old) and Andrew Feimster (4 years old).