
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR TIFFANY FRANKS

Whereas, Dr. Tiffany M. Franks, the first woman to serve as President of Averett University, retired January 5, 2025, after nearly 17 years of distinguished service and 37 years in higher education leadership;

Whereas, under her leadership, Averett achieved record enrollment, secured over \$60 million in philanthropic support, launched new academic and athletic programs, and advanced significant campus enhancements;

Whereas, Dr. Franks prioritized restoring Averett's relationship with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, affirming the University's Baptist heritage and fostering a strong partnership with West Main Baptist Church to provide a minister of youth for the church and chaplain for Averett;

Whereas, in 2022 she received the Courageous Leadership Award presented annually by the higher education consulting firm Credo to honor outstanding higher education administrators for their commitment to student success; and for her collaborative and inclusive stewardship of the institution, contributions to the community, and passionate advocacy on behalf of students;

Whereas, before joining Averett, she served as Executive Vice President at Greensboro College in North Carolina;

Whereas, she holds a B.A. from Ohio Dominican University, an M.S. from The Ohio State University, and a doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania;

Whereas, she is recognized for her student-centered leadership, community engagement, and dedicated service to the Danville region;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Executive Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, meeting September 9, 2025, expresses deep gratitude to Dr. Tiffany McKillip Franks for her exemplary leadership and service, and offers prayerful support to her and her husband, Joe, in the next chapter of their lives;

Be it Further Resolved, that we ask the messengers of the Annual Meeting of the BGAV on November 11, 2025, at Highlands Fellowship, Abingdon, Virginia to express on behalf of all Virginia Baptists our gratitude to God and our deepest appreciation for the contributions of Dr. Tiffany McKillip Franks.