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JAMES BAXTER HUNT, JR.

James Baxter Hunt, Jr., the Governor of North Carolina, was elected in 1976 by the largest popular vote in the history of the State. Born in Guilford County, he was reared on a farm in Wilson County. He earned the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from North Carolina State University, and a degree in Law from this Institution. He served as Economic Adviser in Southeast Asia to the Government of Nepal for the Ford Foundation, and practiced law in this State. In 1973 he became North Carolina's first full-time Lieutenant Governor.

Always a concerned and active citizen, Governor Hunt has used his talents to spur the work of numerous State boards and commissions, and he has given generously of his time to important public service organizations. As Lieutenant Governor he supported utility reform legislation, campaign finance disclosure laws, a legislative ethics code, land use legislation, the establishment of public kindergartens, and the creation of a pioneering rural health care system.

As Governor, Jim Hunt has introduced an ambitious primary reading program and standardized annual achievement tests for the schools, revitalized the State's economic development program, and obtained voters' approval for highway and clean water bond issues. With the help of a new computer system, he has strongly emphasized affirmative action in State hiring, creating greater opportunities for veterans, minorities, women, and the handicapped. For a sound record of outstanding service in the public interest, the University is pleased to present this Award.