

Marc Basnight
Doctor of Laws

Marc Basnight has been elected to the North Carolina Senate for eight consecutive terms and has led the Senate as president *pro tempore* since 1995. Throughout his legislative career, Senator Basnight has been a strong supporter of higher education in general and North Carolina's major research universities in particular. The eminence in American higher education that this University enjoys is largely due to the support that it receives from the General Assembly. Marc Basnight has fought to maintain and increase that support in the face of fierce competition for the State's limited resources and often at considerable personal sacrifice. Those who seek proof need only look around them. Senator Basnight took the lead in promoting a 1994 state bond issue for higher education that provided partial funding for buildings for the Kenan-Flagler Business School, the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the School of Dentistry. Major projects funded in later years through the capital budget include new buildings for the School of Law, the School of Pharmacy, the Institute of Government, the Institute of Marine Sciences, the Center for Dramatic Art, the Medical School's Human Biomolecular Research Building, and the Robert Burton House Undergraduate Library. Senator Basnight also deserves much of the credit for special salary increases for teaching faculty, academic enrichment funding, a decrease in the amount of State appropriations required to revert, return to the campus of overhead receipts formerly diverted to the State's General Fund, health insurance coverage for graduate teaching assistants, tuition remission for graduate students, funding for distance learning and information technology, and many other initiatives too numerous to mention. Marc Basnight is the single most important and influential public figure in the advancement of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in recent years and one of the most important of this century.

In grateful recognition of his continuing and unstinting devotion to higher education in North Carolina, this University confers on Marc Basnight the degree of Doctor of Laws.