

Biddy Martin
Doctor of Laws

Biddy Martin is the 19th President of Amherst College, a position she has held since 2011. Previously, she served as provost of Cornell University and chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A native of rural Virginia, Martin was her high school's valedictorian and set a school scoring record for basketball. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary, and earned a Ph.D. in German Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Martin is the author of many scholarly articles and two books, *Woman and Modernity: The Lifestyles of Lou Andreas-Salomé* (1991) and *Femininity Played Straight: The Significance of Being Lesbian* (1996). Her record of teaching and scholarship in German Studies and Women's Studies has earned her membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, but it is as an administrative leader in higher education that she has made her most enduring contributions. At a time when public higher education has experienced repeated budget cuts and its role in the body politic questioned, Martin has been a passionate leader and spokesperson for the importance of a liberal education in a democratic society. At Cornell she worked on initiatives to enhance recruitment and training of women in the sciences and tackled the question of access and financial aid with the goal of enabling first-generation college students to graduate debt-free. At UW-Madison, she led successful efforts to increase need-based financial aid, improve undergraduate education and enhance research. She also launched the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates to enhance student advising, introduce innovations in undergraduate programs, and increase faculty diversity. In the face of a drastic decline in state funding, Martin led an unsuccessful effort to achieve institutional autonomy in order to secure Wisconsin's future as one of the nation's leading public institutions of higher education. During her relatively short tenure at Amherst she has ushered the college through institutional soul-searching following a series of reports of a culture of sexual misconduct among undergraduates. The New York Times commented that "no college leader in the country was as well prepared to face this controversy as Biddy Martin."

In recognition of outstanding accomplishment in scholarship and higher education administration, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Biddy Martin the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.