

BOBBIE KNIGHT BIO

Birmingham native Bobbie Knight made history in August 2019 when she was named interim president of Miles College, becoming the first woman to lead the institution since its founding in 1898. On March 5, 2020 Knight was elected permanent president, becoming the fifteenth president of the historic institution. Knight quickly made her mark by securing the largest single donation in the school's history. With Knight at the helm the college has received more than \$101million in external funding. Since her arrival in 2019 the college has experienced an increase in gifts and grants from federal, state, local and non-profit sources of more than 2000%.

During her tenure Knight led the college through its 10-year reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The process concluded with the college receiving reaffirmation with zero findings for the next decade. The college also received certification from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Alabama State Department of Education, Council on Social Work Education, and the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)

Knight has been relentless in securing partnerships with corporate, governmental and philanthropic agencies to provide her students with meaningful internships and job placements, and valuable networking and experiential learning opportunities. Those partnerships include FedEx Freight, FedEx Global, Regions Financial, Microsoft, Apple, Honda, the NFL, the USFL, Alabama Power, the Propel Center, Southern Company, PGA Works, the Kemper Foundation, the Student Freedom Initiative, the Black Collegiate Gaming Association, the National Park Service, the FBI, the CIA, TRIO Support Services, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, National Science Foundation Advance (Organizational Change for Gender Equity in STEM Academic Professions), and more.

During Knight's tenure the college launched its state-of-the-art E-gaming Center, a Black Male Teacher Initiative, a state-of-the-art Apple-powered communications Lab, and a state-of-the-art Apple-powered music production lab.

Bobbie continued to use her business acumen as CEO of her own company, Bobbie Knight Consulting, LLC, as well as leading other entities. In 2017 Knight was elected to the Board of Trustees of Miles College where she served on the development committee. That same year Knight was tapped by then Birmingham Mayor-elect Randall Woodfin to co-chair his transition team along with retired U. S. Marine Corps General Charles Krulak. In 2018 Bobbie was appointed to the Birmingham Airport Authority (BAA) and was immediately elected as Chair by her colleagues. She continues in her service to the BAA.

In 2007, in what she considers a highlight of her career, Knight was selected as one of 21 women worldwide for the acclaimed Leadership Foundation Fellows Program of the International Women's Forum. This program afforded her the opportunity to study at Harvard University and the Judge School of Business at Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Throughout her career Knight received many awards and accolades. In 2005 she was named Outstanding Alumni in Public Relations by the University of Alabama School of Communications. In 2008 she received the Women's History Award from the Birmingham Chapter of NAACP. In 2013 Knight was recognized as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference" by the Birmingham News and [Al.com](http://al.com). In 2019 Knight was presented with a Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award by the NCCJ. In 2020 Yellowhammer News recognized Knight as a Woman of Impact.

Knight has earned recognition for her dedication to leadership with civic organizations, from championing the city's downtown Railroad Park to serving as chair of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Board. Her past philanthropic and civic board affiliations are too numerous to mention but they include Red Mountain Theatre, REV Birmingham, VOICES for Alabama's Children, Literacy Council, A. G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club, American Association of Blacks in Energy, Board of Visitors of the University of Alabama College of Communications, Alabama Power Foundation, Alabama Business Charitable Trust, and United Way of Central Alabama.

Currently, Knight serves on the boards of Alabama Power Company, the Birmingham Airport Authority, Miles College, the Miles Foundation, the Miles College CDC, the University of Alabama Health System Foundation, Southern Research, the Birmingham Times, and Bronze Valley (a non-profit, early stage venture investment platform that supports innovation and technology). Knight is a member of the Birmingham

Business Alliance, the Business Council of Alabama, the Birmingham Rotary Club, and the International Women's Forum of Alabama.

Knight is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and the Birmingham School of Law. She is also a graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management Executive Leadership Program. In May of 2022 Knight was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the Miles College Board of Trustees.

In 2016 Knight was tapped into the 28th order of the XXXI, one of the most prestigious women's honoraries on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The honorary included thirty-one women that have made significant contributions to the University of Alabama and/or the State of Alabama. Other women tapped into the society have included writer Harper Lee (To Kill a Mockingbird), U.S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell, former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin. In 2020 Knight was presented with Samford University's Mann Medal In Ethics and Leadership. In 2021 Knight was the recipient of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. HBCU For Life: A Call to Action Award. In 2022 she received the Vanguard Award from the Higher Education Leadership Foundation, the Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Award from the UNCF, and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Alpha Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Knight was named to the Birmingham Business Journal's "The Power 60 Most Influential" in back to back years. In 2023 the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa presented Knight with the Betsy Plank Distinguished Achievement Award.

Knight retired in 2016 after a very successful career with Alabama Power Company (APC), which spanned nearly thirty-eight years. Throughout her career, she held various executive and leadership positions, including Vice President of the Birmingham Division (Alabama Power's largest division), Vice President of Public Relations, and General Manager of Supply Chain.

Bobbie is a woman of immense influence and is passionate about giving back and mentoring young men and women to become leaders in their communities. She is married to Gary Burley, retired NFL player, local philanthropist, and founder of ProStart Academy and ProStart Scholarship Fund.