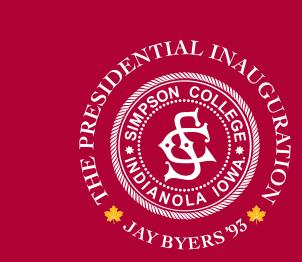


Inauguration of

JAY BYERS, J.D.

25th President of Simpson College

OCTOBER 11, 2024



Take the Future By Storm

The Inauguration of
Jay Byers, J.D.
as the 25th President of Simpson College

Friday, October 11, 2024 At two o'clock in the afternoon

> Simpson College Smith Chapel Indianola, Iowa

Reception to follow the ceremony in the Black Box Theatre in Kent Campus Center

Jay Byers, J.D. was named Simpson College's 25th president in May 2023. In his first year as president, Simpson's first year student enrollment grew to its largest number in more than a decade, first year student retention increased five percent, and the Dunn Library renovation was completed.

Prior to becoming Simpson's president, Byers excelled in his 18 years of executive leadership with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, including 11 years as president and CEO. Under his leadership, The Partnership experienced significant growth, expanding to represent 11 counties and 24 Affiliate Chambers of Commerce with more than 6,500 members, making The Partnership the fourth largest regional chamber of commerce in the country. During his tenure, the DSM region was the fastest-growing major metro in the Midwest in percentage of population, GDP and job growth, and received countless rankings and accolades.

Byers served as The Partnership's senior vice president of Government Relations and Public Policy before serving as president & CEO. Prior to his tenure at The Partnership, he worked as district director for Iowa Congressman Leonard Boswell and as an attorney at the Ice Miller Law Firm in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Byers also served as an adjunct professor in the political science department at Simpson for several years. He also served on the Simpson College board of trustees for 11 years, prior to becoming president.

A 1993 graduate of Simpson College, Byers earned his juris doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1996. He is a Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) and a graduate of the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents, U.S. Chamber's Institute of Organization Management (IOM), the OU Economic Development Institute, ACCE's Ford Foundation Regionalism and Sustainable Development Fellowship, Leadership Iowa and Warren County Leadership Institute.

Byers currently serves on multiple boards of directors, including the American Rivers Conference Executive Committee, Indianola Chamber of Commerce, Warren Count Economic Development Corporation, Iowa Economic Development Authority, Capital Crossroads Regional Council and ChildServe.

During his tenure at The Partnership, Byers chaired the Iowa Chamber Alliance at the statewide level, chaired the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and served on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 at the national level, and was the U.S. representative on the International Chamber of Commerce World Chambers Federation General Council.

He also previously served on the boards of the Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity, Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Indianola Parks and Recreation Commission, the Warren County Leadership Institute, Catch Des Moines, Iowa Young Presidents Organization, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative and Balance Autism.

Byers has received numerous accolades and honors, including: #2 Most Influential Business Leader by the Des Moines Business Record (2019-23); Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40 (2006); ACCE Forty Under Forty Rising Stars of the Chamber World (2009); Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40 Alum of the Year (2012); Catch Des Moines Community Champion Award (2014); Simpson College Alumni Achievement Award (2015); ACCE Chairman's Award (2020); Iowa Character Champion Award (2023); and ACCE Life Member Award (2024).

Byers has been married to his wife, Katie, for 26 years. Katie currently serves as director of the Iowa Center Women's Business Center, founder and CEO of HomeDitty, and is an artist at Mainframe Studios in Downtown Des Moines. Jay and Katie have two daughters, Sophie and Charolotte. Sophie is currently attending DMACC studying animation, and Charlotte is studying fashion design at Savannah College of Art Design.

Inaugural Program

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore thee - arr. Paul Manz

Sohee Lee

Organist

Procession

Order of Procession

Flag Bearers

Ilianna Murphy '25

Grant Love '26

Student Body Vice President
Junior Class President

Grand Marshal

Terry Handley '09 Board Chair

Medallion Bearer

Dr. John Epperson Professor of Political Science Emeritus

The Simpson College Choir and Chamber singers

Simpson College Trustees

Simpson College Faculty

Simpson College Administrators

Delegates

Greeters

Processional in D Organist

Welcome

Terry Handley Chair, Board of Trustees

Invocation

The Reverend Mara Bailey '06 Chaplain, Simpson College

Invocation Response

Sull'aria...che soave zeffiretto" from The Marriage of Figaro

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Performed by:

Meghan Kasanders '14

Soprano

Kaylah Hicok '18 Allen Perriello

Pianist (DMMO staff)

Soprano Reses

Greetings

The Board of Trustees

Terry Handley Chair, Board of Trustees

Iowa Conference United Methodist Church

Katie Dawson '06

Assistant to the Bishop

The Faculty

Aswati Subramanian Associate Professor of Biology

The Students

Sarah Roberts '25 Student Body President

The Alumni

Martha Davis-Goldstein '08 Simpson College Alumni Association

Indianola Chamber of Commerce

Amanda Zwanziger President and CEO

Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

Gary Steinke President

Spoken Word

Billy Weathers '13 Founder and CEO, B. Well Foundation

Choral Anthem

Bridge Over Troubled Water - Paul Simon, arr. Kirby Shaw

Simpson College Choir

Dr. Jon Arnold
Dr. Jin Young Park
Conductor
Pianist

The Investiture of the President

Terry Handley Chair, Board of Trustees

Introduction of Jay Byers

David Hayes President, Coe College

President's Response

Jay Byers '93

President

Homeward Bound Homeward Bound

Singing of the Red and Gold (lyrics listed on the back)

Chamber Singers and Choir

Benediction

Pastor Brian Williams '15 Indianola First United Methodist Church

The Lords Prayer Piano Solo Joyce Jensen Byers (1941-1979)

Recorded in 1952

Resessional

Postlude

Fanfare - Lemmens

Sohee Lee Organist

Simpson College Board of Trustees

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President and Chief Executive Officer Casey's General Stores (retired) Bondurant, Iowa

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Owner Murphy Enterprises, LLC Polk City, Iowa

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Polk County Administrator Des Moines, Iowa

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Reverend Riverview Park Superintendent Des Moines, Iowa

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Executive Director Phi Beta Phi Town and Country, Missouri

Brian Williams '15

Pastor

Indianola First United Methodist Church

Maribeth Wright '87

Executive Director Iowa Higher Education Loan Authority Norwalk, Iowa

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Richard M. Willis '74 Clive, Iowa

Sumner P. Worth West Des Moines, Iowa

Presidents of Simpson

Samuel Milton Vernon 1866-1868 Alexander Burns 1868-1878 Thomas Stribling Berry 1878-1880 Edward Lamay Parks 1880-1886 William Ennis Hamilton 1887-1889 Edmund Meek Holes 1889-1892 Fletcher Brown 1892-1898 Joseph Benson Harris 1898-1899 Charles Eldred Shelton 1899-1910 Francis L. Strickland 1910-1915 James Watson Campbell 1916-1919 John Linnaeus Hillman 1919-1936 Earl E. Harper 1936-1938 John Owen gross 1938-1941 Edwin Edgar Voigt 1942-1952 William Edward Kerstetter 1953-1963 Ralph Candler John 1063-1972 Richard Bailey Lancaster 1972-1979 Robert Edward McBride 1979-1987 Stephen Grant Jennings 1987-1998 Roger Kevin LaGree 1999-2005 John Warren Bird 2005-2013 Jay Keith Simmons 2013-2019 Marsha C. Kelliher 2020-2023 Jay Byers 2023 - Present

Acting Presidents

William Ennis Hamilton February- March 1868 William Ennis Hamilton 1886-1887 William Ennis Hamilton 1915-1916

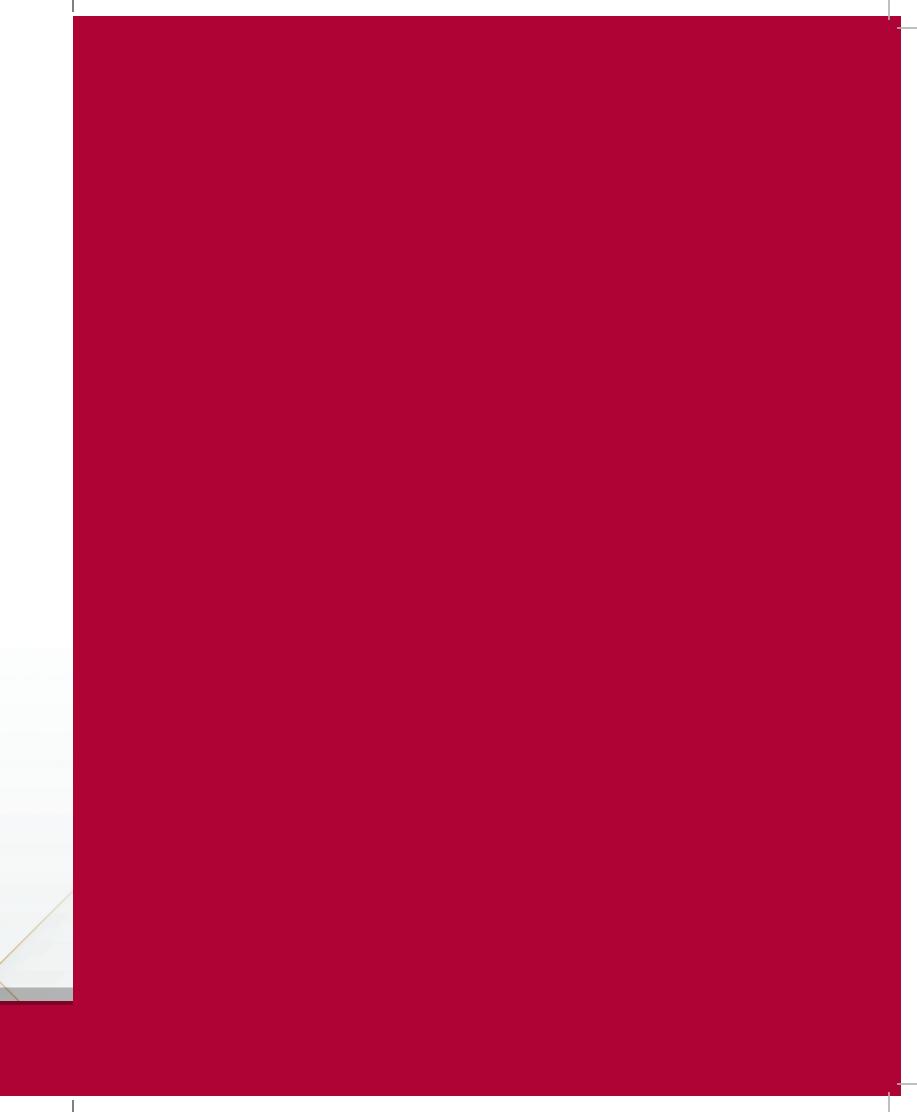
Adm. Committee: Francis Moats, Clyde Emmons, Rae Dean July-November 1938
Adm. Committee: Forrest Brown, chairman 1941-1942
Hurford Stone April-November 1953
M. Bruce Haddox 1998-1999

Robert J. Lane January-May 2020

The Red and Gold

Come we will sing together
Once more the ringing song,
A strain that the coming classes
Unceasingly shall prolong.
The praise of our Alma Mater
Dear Simpson will e'er be told
We'll cherish thy recollections
And swear by the Red and Gold.

Though in the years before us,
Life's skies grow dull and gray,
The friends of our youth are scattered,
We journey our lonely way;
Sweet memories oft will linger
Of those dear days of old,
When beneath the whisp'ring maples,
We flaunted the Red and Gold.





Sponsorship Acknowledgements

Simpson College is grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support of Inauguration and Homecoming activities

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