Biography of Dr. David R. Hopkins

David R. Hopkins was appointed the 6th president of Wright State University on July 6, 2006, and assumed the office on February 1, 2007.

Dr. Hopkins served as provost of Wright State University since 2003. As the university’s chief academic and operating officer, he was responsible for overseeing and guiding all of the university’s academic schools and colleges, and nationally funded research centers and institutes.

A central hallmark of his tenure at Wright State has been his leadership in the implementation of the university’s strategic plan, a dynamic and visionary document that defines the university’s role in the world and its future direction in the region and beyond.

By aligning university resources and expertise, Dr. Hopkins helped garner unanimous support and participation from faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Through their combined efforts, the university achieved several milestones and launched key initiatives set forth in the plan, including an increase in student enrollment; the addition of several new degree and certificate programs; an increase in external funding; increased effort to recruit and retain diversity in the faculty ranks; and enhanced engagement with government, business and nonprofits to focus on emerging areas of need.

Dr. Hopkins came to Wright State from Indiana State University where he served from 2001–2003 as senior associate vice president for academic affairs and interim dean of the School of Business. While at Indiana State University, he also served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2000–2001; associate vice president for academic affairs from 1996–2000; assistant vice president for academic affairs from 1995–1996; and chairperson and professor in the Department of Physical Education from 1988–1994.

In 2005, Indiana University honored Dr. Hopkins with the John R. Endwright Alumni Service Award, an annual award that recognizes outstanding service and contributions by graduates of the IU School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He is a Fellow in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Academic Leadership Institute, a member of the Honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, and a past recipient of the Amoco Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Dayton Business Journal, in August 2009, designated Dr. Hopkins as one of the 25 most Influential People of the Decade in the Dayton Region.

He serves on the National Collegiate Conference Association (NCAA), Division 1, Board of Directors, and on the following regional and state boards: Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute; Dayton Development Coalition; Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education; Miami Valley Research Foundation; and the
Advanced Technical Intelligence Center. He also serves as chair of the Wright Brothers Institute and co-chair of the Ohio Board of Regents Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council.

Dr. Hopkins holds a doctorate in kinesiology from Indiana University. Prior to his doctoral work, he received his master’s degree in mathematics and his bachelor’s in physical education from the College of Wooster, Ohio. His research interest in is the area of exercise physiology and fitness and aging. He has authored or co-authored more than 60 publications and is the inventor of ACUFLEX instruments, which are used worldwide to evaluate joint flexibility.