

**Randy Woodson**  
**Chancellor Emeritus**  
**NC State University**

Dr. Randy Woodson became North Carolina State University's 14th chancellor in April 2010, retiring in 2025 after fifteen years of dedicated service. As chancellor, Woodson led the largest university in North Carolina, with nearly 38,000 students and a \$2 billion budget. Under his leadership, the university created, implemented and completed "The Pathway to the Future," a strategic plan that elevated NC State's recognition among the nation's top public research universities. In 2021, NC State created the "Wolfpack 2030: Powering the Extraordinary" strategic plan to build on this momentum and carry the university even further.

NC State achieved impressive milestones during Woodson's tenure. The university expanded to more than 70 industry and government partnerships on its nationally recognized Centennial Campus. NC State also launched and completed the Think and Do the Extraordinary Campaign, which raised \$2.1 billion for scholarships, research, programs and facilities, propelling the university to even greater heights. In addition, NC State became a lead university for two National Science Foundation Engineering Research Centers, one Manufacturing USA institute (and a partner in six others), a Bezos Earth Fund Center of Excellence and an IBM Quantum Innovation Center.

A nationally recognized scholar and academic leader, Chancellor Woodson came to NC State having most recently served as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at Purdue University. An internationally renowned plant molecular biologist specializing in reproductive processes in agricultural crops, he earned his undergraduate degree in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant physiology from Cornell University.

Under Woodson's leadership, NC State grew into a preeminent research enterprise known for solving real-world challenges — a true Think and Do university. His strategic vision enabled the university to advance in areas of student success, innovative research and collaborative partnerships. This resulted in students ready to solve real-world challenges, public-private partnerships that transform ideas into solutions, and a creative, engaging center of learning and exploration for all.