



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D.
Biography

The Kansas Board of Regents appointed Dr. Mirta M. Martin the ninth president of Fort Hays State University on May 2, 2014, effective July 1, 2014. Dr. Martin is the first female president in the 113-year history of Fort Hays State University and the first Hispanic president in the more than 150-year history of the entire Kansas Regents system.

Dr. Martin holds a baccalaureate degree in psychology and political science from Duke University; a master of business administration degree from the University of Richmond; and a doctorate with an emphasis in strategic management and leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is fluent in three foreign languages.

Dr. Martin's career involves work in both the public and private sectors, including special expertise in organizational behavior, management, institutional advancement and workforce development. As a senior banking executive, Dr. Martin was recognized as a highly effective and innovative practitioner, positioning companies for growth and profitability via leadership in strategic planning, investment management, operations, business development and legislative advocacy.

Dr. Martin's higher education experience is equally diverse and successful. She has served as tenured professor and interim dean at Averett University, Danville, Virginia; associate dean and executive director at the University of Richmond's Robins School of Business; executive vice president and executive director of the John Tyler Community College Foundation; and special assistant to the chancellor of the Virginia Community College System. Prior to her appointment at Fort Hays State University, Dr. Martin served as dean and professor of management at the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University.

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell appointed Dr. Martin to the Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment and to the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges. She also served as ex-officio member on behalf of the secretary of education to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board. She was appointed by former Virginia Governor and current Senator Tim Kaine to serve on the Virginia Council on the Status of Women.

She is active in many educational, civic and charitable organizations. For her leadership, Dr. Martin has received numerous awards, including The Humanitarian Award for Academic Excellence; The Presidential Volunteer Service Award from the president of the United States; and The Hispanic College Fund Legacy Award.

Born in Havana, Cuba, and an immigrant to the United States, Dr. Martin uses her interpersonal and cultural expertise to work diligently to promote access to affordable educational opportunities. She and her husband, John, who is an engineer, have two children, Katherine, a doctoral student at the University of Miami, and Patrick, who just graduated from the University of Virginia and who will start graduate school at Wake Forest University in the fall.