

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



DR. JACK HAWKINS, JR. 2020 Recipient

*“In Recognition of a Lifetime of Outstanding Achievement in the game of Baseball.
The State of Alabama will forever be in your debt.”*

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., a native of Mobile, Alabama, was named Chancellor of Troy University Sept. 1, 1989. He earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Montevallo and his Doctorate from the University of Alabama.

Upon completion of his Bachelor’s degree in 1967, Hawkins was commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a platoon leader during the Vietnam War. For his combat duty, he received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and a citation from the Korean Marine Corps.

Hawkins has overseen an era of change and growth at TROY, as he led the merger of the worldwide Troy State University System into the unified Troy University, an initiative called “One Great University.” More than \$350 million has been invested in capital improvements by the Hawkins Administration, including new academic buildings on all four of TROY’s Alabama campuses. Chancellor Hawkins served as the catalyst for the University’s evolution to an international institution, as TROY has attracted record numbers of students from other nations and established teaching sites around the world. During his tenure, academic standards for admission have been increased, new degree programs were established in all academic colleges, and intercollegiate athletics joined the highest level of NCAA competition.

Hawkins’ professional background includes his service as an assistant dean at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (1971-1979) and as president of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Talladega (1979-1989).

In 1985, he was honored by the University of Montevallo as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, and was the recipient of the 2003 All-American Football Foundation’s “Top College President” Award. In 2005, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama. In 2007, he was recognized as the “Alabama Citizen of the Year” by the Alabama Broadcasters Association. In 2011, Dr. Hawkins was recognized with the Chief Executive Leadership Award presented by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and as the March of Dimes River Region Citizen of the Year. In 2012, he received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Secretary of the Air Force for his service on the Air University Board of Visitors from 2004-2012. In 2014, he was one of nine university presidents/chancellors worldwide—and the only one in North America—to receive the World Confucius Institute’s Individual Performance Excellence Award. In October 2016, Dr. Hawkins was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. In 2019, Dr. Hawkins received the Global Ties Alabama Citizen Diplomat Award.

Three buildings are named in his honor: the “Jack and Janice Hawkins Chapel” at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, the “Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor” and “Jack Hawkins, Jr. Hall” which serves the College of Education of Troy University. Hawkins was profiled as part of two books published in 2004: “Above and Beyond: Former Marines Conquer the Civilian World” by Rudy Socha and Carolyn Darrow and “The Entrepreneurial College President” by James L. Fisher and James V. Koch.

Hawkins serves on the board of directors of the Daniel Foundation, the Bennie Adkins Foundation, Business Council of Alabama, the American Village Trust, College Football Playoff Board of Managers, and Troy Bank and Trust Company.

Dr. Hawkins is being honored by the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association as their 2020 Distinguished Service Award Honoree due to his overwhelming support of their efforts to secure an appropriation in the state education budget of Alabama. He gave Barry Dean, ALABCA Executive Director, the vision and direction to pursue financial assistance from the state, as he knew the educational benefits the amateur baseball coaches, players and their parents, received from their service they provide. The ALABCA got into the budget under Troy University’s appropriations the first year, and have been a line item in the education budget since.

Honored January 17, 2020