

## WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

William Jefferson Clinton, in his first year as the nation's forty-second president and third youngest president, has vigorously set an agenda of attack upon the problems of national debt, health care, public education, international trade barriers, unemployment, crime, poverty, and a threatened global environment. "We have drifted," he declared in his Inaugural address, "and that drifting has eroded our resources, fractured our economy, and shaken our confidence." But, he hastened to add, "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

At the time of his election to the presidency almost one year ago, he was in his fifth term as governor of Arkansas and acknowledged, in a survey of his fellow governors, as the nation's most effective governor. Education reform became the centerpiece of his administration. During his term of office, public education in Arkansas was strengthened by smaller classes, higher student test scores, the highest high school completion rates in the region, teacher competency tests, and dramatic increases in the number of high school seniors going on to college. In Arkansas, 71% of all state general revenues was invested in education, the third highest rate in the country. As Governor he helped to attract new business and industry to the state, ranked in 1989 by the Small Business Administration as first in the country in new business starts.

In partnership with his wife, Hillary, he has helped to give new meaning to the definition of America's First Family. An idealist who understands the complex and often slow process of creating change; a visionary who looks beyond the expediencies of the next election; and an unshakable believer in the enduring promises of the American dream, President Clinton embodies a new generation of leadership in America. This University, upon the occasion of its two-hundredth anniversary of service to the people of North Carolina and to the nation, proudly confers upon William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States, this honorary degree.