

**Beverly Eaves Perdue**  
**Doctor of Laws**

Beverly Eaves Perdue served as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Governor of North Carolina, having been elected to that position in 2008 following two terms as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Governor. Previously, she had served in both houses of the General Assembly, including five terms in the Senate where she rose to leadership as the senior budget writer. She is the first woman to have held either of North Carolina's highest elective offices.

Perdue was born and raised in Grundy, Virginia, where her father worked as a coal miner and eventually came to own several companies in the coal business. Perdue earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and both a master's degree in education and a doctoral degree in education administration from the University of Florida. She is one of only two North Carolina governors to hold an earned doctorate. Before entering state politics, Perdue worked as a public school teacher and as director of geriatric services at a community hospital in New Bern. As a state senator she championed passage of the 2000 Michael K. Hooker Higher Education Facilities Financing Act. This bond referendum passed by more than 73 percent of the statewide vote in all 100 counties and provided needed resources for critical infrastructure improvements at the state's community colleges and public universities. As lieutenant governor she cast the deciding vote to establish the North Carolina Education Lottery which has directed millions to the day-to-day operations of the public school system. As governor during the most difficult economic times in decades she maintained the state's triple-A credit rating and worked tirelessly to preserve North Carolina's commitment to education from kindergarten to college. She oversaw North Carolina's preparation and response to Hurricane Irene in 2011; supported the recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Eugenics Compensation that victims receive compensation; expanded the Pre-K program across the state; and granted full pardons of innocence to the Wilmington 10. In 2013, Perdue served as a Resident Fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics and was later named a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy where she also serves as an adviser to Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy. Currently she is founder and chair of the Digital Learning Institute, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

For outstanding accomplishment in public service, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Beverly Eaves Perdue the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causi*