

**Dr. A. Hope Williams**  
**President, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities**

Dr. A. Hope Williams is President of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU), the statewide advocacy, public policy and fundraising organization for the 36 independent, or private, colleges and universities in North Carolina. As President, she is the Chief Executive Officer for the NCICU Board of Directors of college and university presidents and for the Independent College Fund of North Carolina board that also includes corporate trustees and raises corporate and foundation funds for student scholarships and programs. She has been president of NCICU since 1992.

On behalf of North Carolina independent higher education, Dr. Williams works closely with the State of North Carolina and with the federal government including the executive branches, the North Carolina General Assembly and Congress. She works in partnership with the presidents of the state university system and the community college system, as well as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and chairman of the State Board of Education to address issues affecting education in North Carolina. Her leadership at NCICU includes advocating on public policy issues, providing research and information, raising corporate and foundation funds, and administering collaborative and student enrichment programs. At the national level, Dr. Williams has served as chair of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities State Executives and as a member of the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. She currently serves on the board of the Council of Independent Colleges.

Dr. Williams received her undergraduate degree in French and History from Duke University, an MPA degree from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received the Outstanding Service Award from the Rotary Club of Raleigh in 1997, was named the 1999 Distinguished Woman of North Carolina in Education, one of the top 25 Women in Business in 2001 by *The Triangle Business Journal* and a "Woman Extraordinaire" in 2005 by *Business Leader Magazine*. She has served as president of the North Carolina Adult Education Association and of the North Carolina Association of Institutional Researchers. She currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the Institute for Emerging Issues, and on the boards of College Foundation, Incorporated and Communities in Schools of North Carolina.