WILLIAM & MARY
APPOINTMENT OF CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE


Robert M. Gates ’65, L.H.D. ‘98 has demonstrated distinguished service to his alma mater and his country, during a career in public service that began soon after he graduated from William & Mary in 1965. In 1966, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional, serving six presidents. During that period, he spent nearly nine years at the National Security Council. Dr. Gates served as Deputy Director of the CIA from 1986 to 1989, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser at the White House from 1989 to 1991, and Director of the CIA from 1991 to 1993. On December 18, 2006, Dr. Gates took office as the nation’s 22nd Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush, and continued in that position under President Barack Obama until his retirement on June 30, 2011. He is the only person ever to serve as Secretary of Defense under two presidents of different political parties, and, in total, Dr. Gates served eight presidents.

After retiring from the CIA, Dr. Gates lectured at some of America’s most prominent institutions, including Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, and, of course, his alma mater. From 2002 to 2006, he was president of Texas A&M University after previously serving as the university’s interim Dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service from 1999 to 2001. He is the author of three books. From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider’s Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War, was published in 1996. His second book, Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War, published in 2014, was described as "one of the best Washington memoirs ever" in the New York Times and topped its list of best-selling non-fiction books for five consecutive weeks. His third book, A Passion for Leadership: Lessons on Change and Reform from Fifty Years of Public Service, was published in 2016.

Dr. Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and has received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal twice. He has been awarded the CIA’s highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, three times. Upon his retirement, President Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a president can bestow on a civilian. In 1998, the College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of
Humane Letters, and in 2000 Dr. Gates received the Alumni Medallion from the Alumni Association.

William & Mary has benefited greatly from Dr. Gates’ long connection to the university, particularly so during his time as Chancellor. Given his distinguished service to the nation, extensive leadership experience, and devotion to his alma mater, Chancellor Gates is an invaluable representative of the university.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, upon recommendation of the President, the Board of Visitors of the College of William & Mary elects The Honorable Robert M. Gates ’65, L.H.D. ‘98 to a second term as the twenty-fourth Chancellor of The College of William & Mary in Virginia, for a period of seven years commencing July 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a public re-investiture shall be made at an appropriate time.