

Steven Leath became Auburn University's 19th president on June 19, 2017. As president, Dr. Leath brings extensive leadership expertise to advance Auburn's land-grant mission of instruction, research, and outreach.

Supporting Auburn's vision to inspire, innovate, and transform, Dr. Leath is focused on strengthening Auburn's reputation as a partnership university and empowering students, faculty, and entrepreneurs to develop transformative ideas and inventions that improve lives. As leader of a university renowned for its exceptional student experience, Dr. Leath champions programs that position Auburn students to become leaders in their professions and engage in their communities.

Since becoming president, Dr. Leath has launched a number of bold initiatives designed to reinforce Auburn's commitment to student success, transformative research, and scholarship. In support of the university's desire to strengthen instruction and innovation, Dr. Leath has committed to the hiring of 500 new tenure-track, scholarship- and research-focused faculty members by the year 2022.

Under Dr. Leath's leadership, the university continues to augment the meaningful impact of academic discovery at Auburn. The Presidential Awards for Interdisciplinary Research initiative supports multidisciplinary research teams that are focused on delivering practical solutions to real-world challenges and will attract new sources of external funding. Additionally, the Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship recruits top-tier PhD scholars in fields of established and emerging research. The university's commitment to research and academic discovery earned the Carnegie R1 designation, placing Auburn among the country's elite research institutions.

Prior to arriving at Auburn, Dr. Leath served as president of Iowa State University and vice president for research and sponsored programs for the University of North Carolina System, and he held several prominent positions at North Carolina State University. Dr. Leath began his academic career at the University of Illinois, Urbana, as an extension plant pathologist. He holds a BS in plant science from Pennsylvania State University, MS in plant science from the University of Delaware, and PhD in plant pathology from the University of Illinois. In 2018, Dr. Leath was appointed by President Donald J. Trump to serve a six-year term on the National Science Board. He also serves as Secretary of the Council of Presidents for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Dr. Leath and his wife, Janet, have two sons, Eric and Scott, and a yellow Labrador retriever, Quill.