

Dr. Vernon G. Miles  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Henderson State University

Dr. Vernon G. Miles, now in his fifteenth year as a chief academic officer, serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of English, at Henderson State University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi (1980), and his Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (1983). Dr. Miles earned the Ph. D. in American literature from the University of Arkansas in 1990. His doctoral dissertation, a thematic study of anti-slavery novels, dealt with ways in which white anti-slavery novelists of the pre-Civil War era display racial ambivalence toward the very people they were attempting to aid. Immediately prior to his arrival at HSU in October of 2008, Dr. Miles was Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, having moved to post-Katrina New Orleans to help the city's recovery by furthering higher education there.

During his year in New Orleans, Dr. Miles aided Our Lady of Holy Cross College by sponsoring a new *Faculty Assembly Constitution*, and by negotiating an articulation agreement with Notre Dame Seminary, revising the *Promotion in Rank Procedural Manual*, and co-editing multiple revisions to the Our Lady of Holy Cross College *Faculty Handbook*. Moreover, he co-wrote a highly successful Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges self-study accreditation document, co-chairing the college's Steering Committee.

Prior to his service in New Orleans, Dr. Miles spent from 2002-2007 as Dean of the College (chief academic officer) at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. During his years at Lynchburg College, Dr. Miles concentrated his efforts on a highly successful ten-year SACS Commission on Colleges review, on chairing Phase One of the Strategic Planning process, and chairing the efforts to develop the college's first Faculty/Staff Salary Plan. Dr. Miles developed a close relationship with the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, earning Lynchburg College status as a Bonner Leader College (Bonner Leaders are funded student campus leaders in service, community engagement, and community-based research). Dr. Miles was also involved in a number of fund raising initiatives at Lynchburg College, primarily in the area of intercollegiate athletics, co-founding the Lynchburg College "Hornet Club" (an athletics booster club).

While still a faculty member at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky, where he taught from 1988 to 1997, prior to his becoming a vice president there (1997-2002), Dr. Miles received the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Excellence in Research Award, and the Student Government Association's Distinguished Professor Award. After becoming the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Union College in 1997, Dr. Miles devoted much of his time to enhancing the college's promotion and tenure policies, to strategic planning, and to facilities master planning. During his time at Union College, Dr. Miles enjoyed summer fellowships at the University of Kentucky and the University of California in Berkeley. He also received a Mellon Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he spent the 1995-96 academic year. Dr. Miles has presented and

published widely on American literature and African-American literature, receiving the inaugural Editor's Choice Award from the *Kentucky Philological Review* for an article on phenomenology and identity in contemporary African-American fiction.

Dr. Miles participated in the Council of Independent Colleges' Inaugural *Presidential Vocation and Institution Mission* seminar, as well as the *Institute for Education Management* (IEM) at Harvard University, the *Snowmass Institute* on strategic planning, and the *Disney Institute*. Dr. Miles served as peer-reviewer for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and chaired Commission on Colleges reviews; currently he serves as a Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Corps Consultant-Evaluator. These continuing education opportunities, plus his extensive experience in personnel matters, program enhancement, retention, and budget/planning, have particularly prepared him to counsel and mentor other chief academic officers, which he has repeatedly done with enthusiasm through a number of programs and organizations.

For many years, Dr. Miles was active in the martial arts, earning the black belt in Tae Kwon-Do and teaching the martial arts as a volunteer instructor in Arkansas and Kentucky. Now he spends his spare time hiking, walking, reading, and playing golf. He has been a board member of a number of non-profit institutions, and now serves on the Arkadelphia, AR, Water and Sewer Committee, having been elected to that post by the Arkadelphia Board of Directors. He was recently asked to serve on the U S Army Command & General Staff College (Ft. Leavenworth) Army Education Advisory Committee. Dr. Miles is also active in the American Cancer Society's annual Walk for Life, the Rotary, and other community service organizations. He and his wife Kathy enjoy traveling together and playing with their lab/chow mix, Lulu.