

Dr. Thomas R. Morris

President

Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges



Dr. Thomas R. "Tom" Morris is the sixth President of the VFIC assuming his duties in April 2010. He previously served as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the administration of Governor Timothy M. Kaine.

Prior to his appointment to the Governor's Cabinet, Dr. Morris served for more than thirteen years as the 19th president of Emory & Henry College. A distinguished Constitutional scholar and political scientist, he was a full-time faculty member at the University of Richmond.

A native of Galax, Virginia, Dr. Morris earned a bachelor's degree in government at Virginia Military Institute, studied at Princeton University, then completed his master's and doctoral degrees in government at the University of Virginia. He received fellowships for advanced study including a year each as Liberal Arts Fellow at the Harvard Law School and as fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

During his teaching career at the University of Richmond, Dr. Morris was selected to leadership posts and honored for excellence in the classroom. He was honored as a University Distinguished Educator, received faculty research grants and chaired the Faculty Council.

He is widely known as an expert on Virginia government and politics and has authored or co-authored four books, including *Virginia Government and Politics: Readings and Comments*, Fourth Revised Edition, a work co-edited with Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia. He co-authored a chapter entitled "Republicans Surge in the Competitive Dominion" in an LSU Press publication, *Southern Politics in the 1990s*. He also wrote a chapter on Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder for a nationally circulated book entitled *Governors and Hard Times*, published in 1992 by Congressional Quarterly Press, and in 1994 a chapter on Virginia and the Voting Rights Act in *Quiet Revolution in the South*, Princeton University Press. Dr. Morris has written an additional 17 major articles or book chapters.

Dr. Morris served as a political analyst for television, radio, and print media over a period of twenty-five years. He chaired the Commission on Virginia's State and Local Tax Structure for the 21st Century (1999-2000) and was a member of Governor Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness (2002).

Dr. Morris serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the George C. Marshall Foundation.