

**BIOGRAPHY: Jeffrey R. Docking, Ph.D.  
President, Adrian College**

Dr. Jeffrey R. Docking began his work as the 17th President of Adrian College on July 1, 2005. Since that time he has transformed Adrian College from a struggling institution with 840 students to nearly 1700 today. During this same period of time he grew the College budget from \$28.4 million to over \$70.6 million, doubled the endowment to over \$51.2 million and raised the academic profile of incoming students in nearly every important benchmark category. Under his leadership, Adrian College has experienced a four hundred percent increase in applications.

The renaissance of Adrian College is the product of a unique business plan that Docking created and implemented at the institution. Utilizing free market ideas and the entrepreneurial principles of strategic investments, measurable results, and personal accountability, Docking initiated several academic and co-curricular programs that are very attractive to current students and meet the workforce needs of Midwest residents. The results have been overwhelming.

Adrian's success provides significantly more revenues that Docking has reinvested in the local community including \$46.2 million in new construction, nearly 100 new jobs, increasing faculty positions from 63 to current 98, and the purchasing power of 800 additionally enrolled students each year to shop in local businesses.

Several national publications have chronicled Adrian's rise including front page stories in The Chronicle of Higher Education and The Toledo Blade. Time Magazine and The Wall Street Journal have also noted Adrian's ascension, and recently (2012) the associated press published an article about Adrian's success that ran in several major newspapers throughout the nation. During the last five years, US News and World Report, in their annual edition of American's Best Colleges, ranked Adrian College twice as the #1 Up and Coming Baccalaureate Institution in the Midwest, among the top five schools for least amount of student debt at graduation and ranked in the Top 20 Best Baccalaureate Colleges in the Midwest. Most recently Adrian was selected among the "Top Colleges" in the Midwest and a "Best Value" for regional universities by U.S. News.

Docking's work at Adrian College includes the development of eight academic institutes: the Institute for Ethics, Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, Institute for Study Abroad, Institute for Health Studies, Institute for Education, Institute for Creativity, The George S. Romney Institute for Law and Public Policy, and the Institute for Career Planning.

Docking is a rising speaker and leader in higher education circles, having served as chairman of the ACE Fellows Program Board, the premier leadership development program in the United States. He has testified to the Education and Workforce Committee for the United States Congress and to the Commerce Committee of the Michigan Legislature. He currently serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee for Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU) and Chairman of the Board for The Michigan College Alliance (MCA). Docking is a member of the President's Advisory Group for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He attended Harvard's Institute for Educational Management and The Harvard Seminar for New Presidents. He is actively involved with the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). Locally he sits on the board for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the City of Adrian.

Docking was invited to the Middle East Institute in Washington, DC, to join a delegation of college presidents to travel throughout the United Arab Emirates, offering advice and assessment in this burgeoning area of the world.

Docking holds a Ph.D. in Social Ethics from Boston University having done considerable work in Martin Luther King studies and racism. He published two book reviews in *The Journal of Value Inquiry* and has consulted widely on ethical decision making in higher education. His work includes numerous television and print interviews on topics ranging from town/gown relations to The Millennial Generation. He is authoring a book entitled, "Crisis in Higher Education: A Plan to Save Small Liberal Arts Colleges in America" that has been accepted by the Michigan State University Press for publication in the spring of 2014.

In 2003-2004 Docking was selected to join the administrative team at Carnegie Mellon University as an ACE Fellow, providing him with access to presidents and institutions throughout the country. He has done considerable lobbying in Washington, DC, on behalf of higher education and has raised over \$50 million for renaissance improvements at Adrian College.

In recent years President Docking was selected as the Distinguished Alumni from both Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and East Lansing High School.

In addition to his Ph.D. in ethics, Docking holds a Masters of Divinity Degree from Garrett Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Michigan State University. He served in a variety of capacities at colleges and universities throughout the country, and as assistant to the president at Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, before being selected as president of Adrian College.

Dr. Docking is married to Elizabeth DeRose Docking and they have four children.

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