

Investiture Ceremony

John W. Nicklow, Ph.D.

The Sixth President of Florida Institute of Technology

Friday, January 26, 2024 | 3:30 p.m.

Charles and Ruth Clemente Center

Melbourne, Florida

Investiture Program

Prelude Music

Triumphal March from *Aida*, Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)
Allegro Maestoso from *Water Music*, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Ode to Joy from Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770–1827)
Spring from *The Four Seasons*, Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)
Trumpet Voluntary, Jeremiah Clarke (1674–1707)
Music for the Royal Fireworks, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Crown Imperial (“Coronation March”), William Walton (1902–1983)
Pomp and Circumstance, Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

The audience is requested to rise as the academic procession enters and to remain standing until the platform party is seated.

Processional

Dr. Anthony J. Catanese—Processional March Grand Marshal
United States Army ROTC—Posting of the Colors
Mr. John Zarrella—Event Emcee

The National Anthem

Concert Choir led by Ms. Eliza Dopira, Instructor of Music and Director of Music Programs, Florida Tech

Alma Mater Song

Concert Choir led by Ms. Eliza Dopira, Instructor of Music and Director of Music Programs, Florida Tech

Invocation

Father Randall Meissen, Catholic Chaplain and Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, Florida Tech

Welcoming Remarks

Emcee, John Zarrella, Former CNN Principal Space Correspondent

Platform Party Remarks

Mr. Michael Ayers, Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce President & CEO
Ms. Sherry Acanfora-Ruohomaki, Florida Tech Alumni Association President
Ms. Chelsea Lewis, Student Government Association President
Ms. Sarah Irizarry, Staff Advisory Committee Chair
Dr. Alan Brown, Faculty Senate President
Mr. Travis Proctor, Chairman of the Florida Tech Board of Trustees

Installation of the President of the University

Mr. Travis Proctor, Chairman of the Florida Tech Board of Trustees

President Inaugural Address

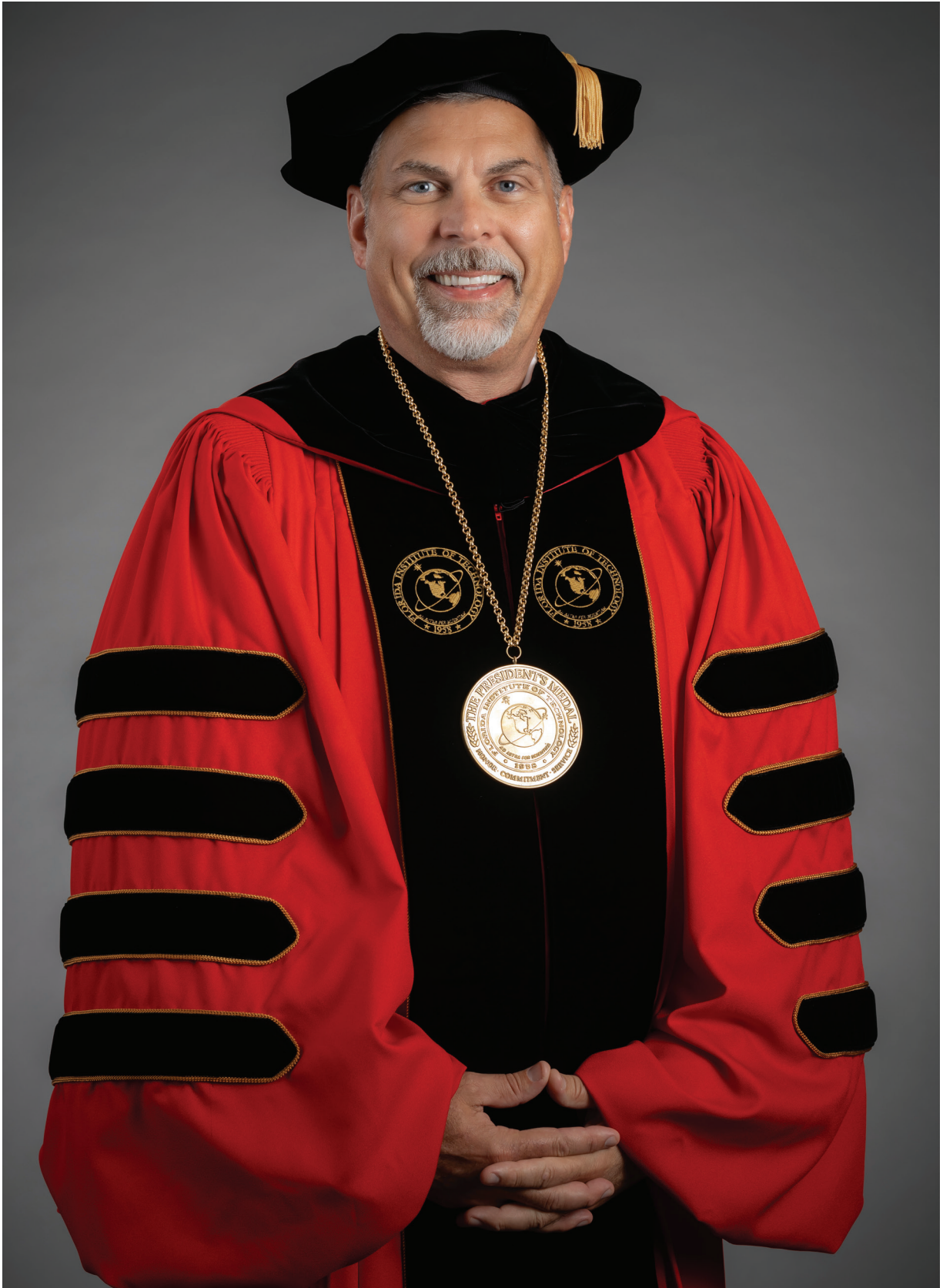
Dr. John W. Nicklow, Florida Tech President

The Academic Recessional

The audience is requested to remain in place until the recessional is completed.

Reception

Guests are invited to greet President Nicklow at the Clemente Center’s Intramural Gym.



President Nicklow Biography

John Nicklow, Ph.D., became the sixth president in Florida Institute of Technology's 65-year history on July 1, 2023.

For seven years prior to joining Florida Tech, President Nicklow served as president and CEO of the University of New Orleans (UNO). His priorities focused on enrollment growth and student success, strengthening the campus' research enterprise, and expanding partnerships with alumni, the community, and regional business leaders. Under his leadership, UNO experienced multiple years of enrollment growth, a first in the post-Katrina era, and a near-doubling of external research grant and contract expenditures. He successfully led the first major comprehensive fundraising campaign in the campus' 65-year history and oversaw major growth of UNO's endowment during his tenure.

President Nicklow has 25 years of higher education experience as a faculty member in engineering and an academic administrator, with a proven track record in research, enrollment management, student success initiatives, fundraising, external partnerships and academic program innovation. He previously served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Southern Illinois University, as well as earlier administrative appointments, including chief enrollment officer and leadership positions in the College of Engineering and Department of Civil Engineering at that institution.

Since arriving at Florida Tech, President Nicklow has become an active participant in organizations, including the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, LEAD Brevard, Junior Achievement of the Space Coast, United Way of Brevard, and the area chambers of commerce. At the state and national level, he is working with organizations like the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, the Association of Independent Technological Universities, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he is hosting alumni gatherings across the country.

President Nicklow has been widely recognized at the university level, nationally by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and by industry for his teaching and research accomplishments. At UNO, he held the rank of professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and held an endowed chair in environmental modeling, which he used to support graduate students and a post-doctoral fellowship. His research interests are focused on advancement of STEM education and on optimization of environmental and water resources systems. He has published more than 75 articles and is the author of four books. He is a registered professional engineer (P.E.), a certified professional hydrologist, a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers.

A native of western Pennsylvania, President Nicklow earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Arizona State University. He has been inducted to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at Arizona State University's School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, and he is a recent recipient of the NCAA Champion of Diversity Award. He began his career as an environmental engineering officer with the U.S. Public Health Service. He and his wife, Dr. Stacy Nicklow, have one son, Ethan, who will soon be the third Dr. Nicklow.

“

My
commit-
ment to
you is that
I will work
tirelessly to
ensure we
realize our
new legacy
and vision,
together.

”

Brief History of Florida Tech

Florida Institute of Technology was founded in 1958 as Brevard Engineering College by Jerome P. Keuper, Ph.D., initially offering advanced educational opportunities to scientists, engineers and technicians working at what is now NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center. The college grew quickly, paralleling the rapid development of America's space program, and was dubbed by the media as the "night school for missilemen."

A 1962 article in *The New York Times* described Brevard Engineering College as "the only space engineering college in the country ... its graduate course offers engineers the opportunity to obtain a master's degree and keep up with the advancement taking place daily at the Cape." At the time of the article, all of the college's graduate students worked on America's race to space during the day and attended classes at night.

Brevard Engineering College moved to its current Melbourne campus in 1961, and construction began immediately on administration and classroom buildings to augment existing buildings on the site. The same year, a student named Regan Dubose Jr. became the young college's first graduate.

In 1966, the evolving college changed its name to Florida Institute of Technology to acknowledge its burgeoning identity as a scientific and technological research university, the only such independent institution in the Southeast. Before the decade's end, the university had broken ground on its first million-dollar building, the Crawford Building.

During the 1990s the university added new facilities valued at nearly \$50 million with construction of the F.W. Olin Engineering, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences buildings and the Charles and Ruth Clemente Center for Sports and Recreation. The next wave of modernization included \$75 million in new infrastructure, including the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research, Ruth Funk Center, The Scott Center for Autism Treatment, L3Harris Center for Science and Engineering, Panther Dining Hall, Panther Aquatic Center, L3Harris Commons, Varsity Training Center and the L3Harris Student Design Center and a parking structure.

In 2020, the Folliard Alumni Center opened on the site of the old Alumni House, with energy efficiency and environmental sustainability at the core of its design. In 2022, the 61,000-square-foot Gordon L. Nelson Health Sciences building enhanced the university's capacity for biomedical education, scientific research and social engagement with state-of-the-art teaching laboratories in human anatomy, augmented and virtual reality teaching tools, and facilities for orthopedics, tissue studies and advanced computational simulations. The Mertens Marine Center, which provides a unique hands-on educational experience for students studying marine biology and water quality, also opened in 2022.

More than 70,000 degrees have been conferred on students at Florida Tech since 1958, when 154 students signed up for the first fall semester. As the institution advances and the alumni ranks multiply, the university remains dedicated to developing outstanding scientists, engineers, aviators, entrepreneurs, educators, counselors, communicators, and business leaders poised to change the world.



Florida Tech's 65th Year: FORWARD TOGETHER, BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL

Now in its remarkable 65th year, Florida Tech commemorates a rich legacy of exceptional education, pioneering research, and groundbreaking innovation. Once called "Countdown College" by notable rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, Florida Tech has transcended its humble origins to become a preeminent scientific and technological university, leaving an indelible mark on a global scale. With over 70,000 alumni actively showcasing their passion, intellect and Panther pride, Florida Tech's impact resonates worldwide. The university invites all of today's guests to join our community in celebration of the visionary leadership of our esteemed new president, the limitless potential of our university and our shared journey forward, together.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Jerome P. Keuper, Ph.D. (Founder)
1958–1986

John E. Miller, Ph.D.
1986–1987

Lynn E. Weaver, Ph.D.
1987–2002

Anthony J. Catanese, Ph.D.
2002–2016

T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.
2016–2022

Academic Traditions and Symbols

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic heraldry in the form of academic dress reaches as far back as the earliest days of the oldest universities. Formal directives concerning the correct and proper wearing of academic regalia date back to the early 14th century. In the United States, as a result of our English heritage, caps and gowns have been used since colonial times.

As heraldic devices such as shields, coats of arms, standards, etc., could identify a knight and his individual heritage, academic costume can describe the academic origin and accomplishments of the wearer. Easily recognizable are holders of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. With the same glance, the trained eye may identify the university that conferred the degree, as well as the individual's field of learning.

The shape and decorations of the gown are the keys to the highest degree earned by an individual. The undergraduate's gown has long pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The master's gown has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist; the rear part of its oblong shape is square cut and the front part has an arc cut away. The master's gown may be worn open or closed. The doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves, may be worn open or closed, and may be most readily identified by its velvet facing down the front and by three velvet bars on each sleeve.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The academic procession is a relic of medievalism in modern university life. The somber gowns and colorful hoods are similar to those worn by scholars and church-men as early as the 12th century. The procession is comprised of university faculty who wish to participate, as well as delegates representing various academic institutions and dignitaries.

THE ACADEMIC MACE

The mace came into existence during medieval times as a weapon used mainly by bishops who were forbidden by canonical rule from shedding blood. By the late 16th century, the mace had become a ceremonial object and, as a symbol of authority, it was adopted by universities and colleges. The academic mace symbolizes the authority invested in the president by a school's governing body. It is used only on formal academic occasions such as commencements and presidential inaugurations, when participants are in full regalia. It is usually carried by the grand marshal.

UNIVERSITY SEAL

Seals have been part of universities since the Middle Ages. University seals are the legal mark of the university's governing body and are one of a university's most important symbols of office. Different from the school logo, the academic seal is used to authenticate official documents such as diplomas and other legal records. The seal is incorporated into most academic ceremonies, especially inaugurations, because of its symbolic and real significance.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

Descending from the Middle Ages, chains of office are massive metal necklaces worn by the president on ceremonial occasions as part of his or her regalia. They can be made of bronze, sterling silver or gold plate, and are usually anchored by a large medallion depicting the school seal. Links are customized, and are often cast in the shapes of school symbols or engraved with meaningful words, a Latin motto, a statement of academic values or the names of university presidents. The head of the school's governing body carries the chain of office in the inaugural procession and places it on the neck of the new president at the moment he or she is installed. The chain of office is reserved for wear as part of the president's academic costume.

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President, Florida Institute of Technology



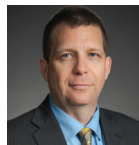
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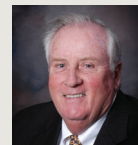


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Board Certified Internist, Health First Medical Group

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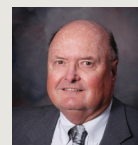
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Physician (Ret.)



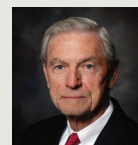
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TITLE SPONSOR

Leonardo DRS congratulates Dr. John Nicklow on his Presidential Investiture! As proud community and industry partners, we also celebrate the 65th anniversary of Florida Tech—Florida’s STEM University! Forward Together. Boundless Potential. Go Panthers!

—Bill Guyan, SVP/GM, DRS Land Electronics



GOLD SPONSOR

The FTAA congratulates Dr. Nicklow on his Presidential Investiture! Dr. Nicklow arrived on campus and hit the ground running. He has worked tirelessly not only on a direction for our university but on developing personal relationships with administration, staff, students, alumni and our community. It feels like he has always been a Panther, and I look forward to what the future brings with him as our leader.

—Sherry Acanfora-Ruohomaki, FTAA President & CEO Facets Consulting Group LLC



SILVER SPONSOR

Congratulations to Dr. John W. Nicklow on his investiture as the Sixth President of Florida Tech. We look forward to a future of limitless growth and achievement under his visionary leadership.

—
Dale Hedrick, CEO and Founder,
Hedrick Brothers Construction



CRIMSON SPONSOR

Florida Power & Light Company celebrates the Presidential Investiture of Dr. John Nicklow. His dedication and passion for our community and education will elevate Florida Tech to new heights.

—
Michele Murrell,
FPL Senior External Affairs Manager

FLORIDA TECH ALL HAIL! (ALMA MATER)

*Nestled deep within the garden
'Neath the skies of blue
Stands our noble alma mater
Wonderful to view*

*Lift the chorus, lift it skyward
Sound it to the shore
Florida Tech, our alma mater,
To the clouds we soar*

*We, together in ambition,
Homelands near and far,
Join our hands in love of learning
Reaching for the stars*

*Lift the chorus, lift it skyward
Sound it to the shore
Florida Tech, our alma mater,
To the clouds we soar*

*Sign of hope and inspiration
Lead to never fail
Ever is our alma mater
Florida Tech all hail!*

*Lift the chorus, lift it skyward
Sound it to the shore
Florida Tech, our alma mater,
To the clouds we soar*

*Lyrics by Mary and Ken Droscher, 2001
Music by H.S. Thompson, "Annie Lisle," 1860*