Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D., Biography

Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D., became the ninth president of Stetson University in July 2009. She is a member of the Council of Presidents, as well as of the Consulting Editors for TrusteeShip Magazine, of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). Libby is on the board of directors of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) and is a former board member of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Central Florida Partnership. Since 2017, she has been a Presidential Sponsor of the American Council on Education Florida Women’s Network, and since 2018, she has been a member of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum for which she is currently vice chair.

In addition, she is active in Central Florida life and, in 2010, was appointed to the Mainstreet Community Bank Board of Directors. In 2011 and 2013, Libby was named to The Volusia/Flagler Business Report’s list of “Influential Women in Business.” In 2014, she received a Women Who Mean Business Award from the Orlando Business Journal and also was named one of the “Top 55 Most Influential” in Volusia and Flagler counties by MyCoast Magazine.

Prior to Stetson, Libby served as president of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, the nation’s second-oldest women’s institution, from 2003 to 2009. She served as vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer at Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, from 1995 to 2003. Her administrative and teaching experience in higher education began in 1980 at institutions including Westbrook College (now part of the University of New England), the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut Health Center, The Ohio State University and Cornell University.

In 2016, she was placed on the “Wall of Distinction” at James Madison High School in Brooklyn, with the likes of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and singer/songwriter Carole King. Libby received the 2009 Outstanding Higher Education Professional Alumni Award at the University of Connecticut.

Prior to this, she led a delegation of six college presidents to Ewha University in Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the presidents’ forum on strategic planning with a global focus. She also received the 2007 Athena Award from the Columbia (Missouri) Chamber of Commerce Women’s Network for her support of women in realizing their full leadership potential and for contributing to the quality of life in the community.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Libby earned her doctorate in educational administration from the University of Connecticut in 1994. Her undergraduate degree, in biology with a concentration in
genetics, is from Cornell University, and she earned an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Cornell’s Johnson Graduate School of Management.

Her husband, Dr. Richard M. Libby, a former college president, is a great supporter of Stetson. In March 2010, he founded and was named university mentor of Stetson’s Clay Target Team. He has raised more than $100,000 in endowment for the club from Stetson alumni and friends. The Libbys have two sons, Glenn and wife Ginger, and Gregg and wife Lori, four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, two great-grandsons and a much-loved Labrador retriever, “Puppy.”