

Blake Thompson, Ph.D.

President-elect, Mississippi College



Dr. Blake Thompson brings leadership in higher education, research circles and government sectors as Mississippi College's 20th president. After serving in diverse leadership roles at The Ohio State University, including positions as vice president and secretary to the OSU Board of Trustees, Dr. Thompson goes to work at Mississippi College July 1, 2018. The MC Board of Trustees selected the Mississippi native to succeed retiring President Lee Royce, who led the university with distinction the past 16 years.

Dr. Thompson served in a variety of prominent roles at The Ohio State University that enrolls more than 60,000 students since 2009. He serves as secretary and is one of three elected officers of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees. As board secretary, Dr. Thompson leads the university's governing board office, strategy and agenda development, and coordinates the board's committee functions. He is also vice president of the Office of Government Affairs and serves on the President's Cabinet. In this capacity, he represents the university at the local, state and federal levels.

During his tenure, Dr. Thompson played an active role in the creation and management of the Wexner Medical Center Board, for which Ohio State received the AGB Nason Award for Board Excellence. He initiated the Ohio State Alumni Advocates program, led the development of the endowed Battelle Center for Science and Technology Policy at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, and taught in the areas of public leadership and policy. He also oversees Ohio State's Government Internship program and is currently developing a course in university governance.

Dr. Thompson has held a variety of increasingly responsible roles at Ohio State. He previously served as vice president for economic and workforce development and special assistant to the president, where he led the university's Science and Technology Campus and continues to serve as its board chair. He also held a joint vice president appointment with Battelle, the world's leading non-profit R&D organization, where he led large-scale research, education and philanthropic partnerships. Earlier, Dr. Thompson worked as a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington, D.C. He practiced policy-making at a national scale and was director of university partnerships for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he built institutional ties with local, state and federal communities.

Convinced of the power of education and engagement, Dr. Thompson is an active member of the Columbus community. He serves as a board member of KIPP Columbus, a public charter school educating over 2,000 inner city students. In addition, he is a board officer for Rev1 Ventures, a technology-based business incubator that helped generate over \$1.2 billion in impact over the past five years. He recently began serving as president of Our Ohio Renewal, a nonprofit founded by *Hillbilly Elegy* author J.D. Vance dedicated to addressing social challenges facing Ohio families. He also serves as founding board chair of The Thompson Institute, a campus ministry dedicated to serving faculty as they integrate their faith with their professions.

Dr. Thompson received his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and an executive master's from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. The 43-year-old Mississippian also received his Bachelor and Master of Sciences degrees in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Mississippi where he serves on the institution's Board of Visitors.