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Speaker Biography
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Robert A. Brown

Robert A. Brown, Ph.D., 10th president of Boston University, is a distinguished scholar of chemical engineering and an innovative leader in higher education. He assumed the presidency of Boston University in September 2005.

Dr. Brown, 54, a Texas native, earned a B.S. and an M.S. in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. He earned a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Prior to his appointment at Boston University, Dr. Brown was provost and Warren K. Lewis Professor of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and numerous other prestigious professional societies.

In 1979, Dr. Brown joined the faculty of MIT as assistant professor. During the last 25 years, he advanced his scholarly and administrative career, serving as co-director of the MIT Supercomputer Facility, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Dean of Engineering. In 1998, Dr. Brown was appointed Provost of MIT.

Dr. Brown has published approximately 250 papers in areas related to mathematical modeling of phenomena associated with materials processing, fluid mechanics of viscoelastic fluids, interface morphology, and modeling of semiconductor processing. He has served as consultant to major international corporations and to governments. He was named a 2005 Honorary Citizen for his service to the government of Singapore.

During his tenure at MIT, Dr. Brown led the creation of multi-disciplinary research centers including the McGovern Institute for Brain Research; the Broad Institute, a world-renowned genomics research collaboration with Harvard University, its affiliated hospitals and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research; and the development of the Ray and Maria Stata Center as a facility for teaching, research and student life focused on computer and intelligent sciences. Dr. Brown also oversaw the creation of the Biological Engineering Division and the Division of Engineering Systems as new interdisciplinary units in teaching and research.

Dr. Brown lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, with his wife Beverly, a health care professional with a doctorate in biochemistry. They have two grown sons.