

# *Nicholas S. Zeppos*

*Chancellor Emeritus*

Nicholas S. Zeppos has served for more than a decade as Vanderbilt University's eighth chancellor. This position was the culmination of his many years of service to the university, where he started as an assistant professor of law in 1987 and went on to serve as professor of law, associate dean of Vanderbilt Law School, associate provost for academic affairs, vice chancellor, and provost, before he became chancellor in 2008.

A distinguished legal scholar, teacher, and executive, Chancellor Zeppos elevated Vanderbilt's mission as a top academic research university and advanced the university's commitment to making education accessible, inclusive, and immersive.

His key accomplishments during his time as chancellor included the launch of Opportunity Vanderbilt—a pioneering initiative recognized as the nation's best financial aid program, providing loan-free tuition to the most talented and deserving students, regardless of their backgrounds and financial means—and the implementation of a new residential college system that reinforces Vanderbilt's mission of educating the whole student, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

In addition, Chancellor Zeppos led the effective separation of Vanderbilt University from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a prescient restructuring that has positioned both institutions for long-term success. He also launched the university's Academic Strategic Planning process and the development of new programs in Jewish studies, law, economics, and genetics.

Chancellor Zeppos has applied his love of teaching to his role as chancellor and continually champions education as the ultimate foundation for strong leadership and change for the better. Since October 2018, he has served as the chair of the Association of American Universities Board of Directors, a role through which he has further established himself as a national advocate for the importance of higher education.