

Dr. Ronald L. Ellis, President

Biographical Sketch

Ronald L. Ellis, Ph.D. became the fifth president of California Baptist University on November 1, 1994. Since then, the institution has experienced sweeping changes in almost every facet of university life from expanding academic programs to a successful athletics program that claimed 22 NAIA national championships in 12 years. In 2013, CBU gained full membership in NCAA Division II with the Lancers continuing to compete in the Pacific West Conference after winning the 2012 Commissioner's Cup in just their first year in the PacWest.

Enrollment has grown nearly nine-fold during the Ellis presidency, from 808 in the fall of 1994 to 7,144 in the fall of 2013. During the same period the university's operating budget has increased from \$11.3 million to \$189.5 million in FY14.

New construction, renovation of existing facilities and property acquisitions have dramatically transformed CBU's beautiful Southern California campus. The university also has developed as a significant member of the community and region, and in 2005 the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce named CBU "Business of the Year." And for the eighth straight year, *U.S. News & World Report* named CBU one of "America's Best Colleges" for 2014.

Under the leadership of President Ellis, CBU has developed into a premier comprehensive Christian university, comprising 10 colleges and professional schools offering 154 undergraduate majors and concentrations as well as 39 master's degree programs. In 2011 CBU received its first ever 10-year accreditation affirmation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. And in 2012, California Baptist University's bachelor degree programs in civil engineering (BSCE), electrical and computer engineering (BSECE) and mechanical engineering (BSME) were accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

President Ellis received a bachelor's degree from Houston Baptist University in 1977 and a master's degree in educational administration from Baylor University in 1981. In 1987, he completed a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Texas A&M University.

President Ellis and his wife, Jane Dowden Ellis, are active members of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, where he has served as chair of the board of trustees. They have two grown sons and six grandchildren.



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