Kimberly Poole, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students

Kimberly Poole serves as associate vice president and dean of students within Clemson University's Division of Student Affairs. In her role, she engages closely to ensure a culture of care with students and families. She also holds administrative responsibility over Advocacy and Success, Community and Ethical Standards, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Interpersonal Violence Response and Military and Veteran Engagement.

Under her watch, Fraternity and Sorority Life has enjoyed unprecedented growth, surpassing 6,300 members — Clemson's highest membership on record. Affiliated students thrived inside the classroom in FY24, with a cumulative grade point average surpassing 3.3 across four governing councils. Beyond the classroom, fraternities and sororities also accumulated 81,000 hours of community service and raised more than $1.4 million toward philanthropies. Additionally, Military & Veteran Engagement was instrumental in Clemson achieving top 10 status for the first time as a Military Friendly® School, ascending to a No. 2 overall ranking among Tier 1 research institutions in 2025. Poole was named one of the Military Friendly® 2024 Veteran Champions of the Year.

Poole served as the inaugural director of Advocacy and Success from 2015-22, where she led a staff whose overarching purpose is to serve students as a trusted place for care and referrals to campus and community partners. Advocacy and Success manages student cases within the CARE Network, a referral system for academic, behavioral, career, finance, relationship and wellness concerns. The office also manages the dean on-call system, which is responsible for following up on late-night and weekend hospital transports or emergency student situations.

Poole has chaired Clemson's behavioral intervention team since 2016 and also co-chairs the threat assessment team. She is an advisor for Clemson Undergraduate Student Government and previously served in the same role for Graduate Student Government, as well as liaison for the Graduate School and International Services.

From 2005-14, Poole was a licensed professional counselor for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) with Redfern Health Center. She was the coordinator of relationship and sexual violence services and provided counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy and outreach services to collegiate and community populations. She left Redfern to become assistant dean of students during the 2014-15 academic year.

Poole has enjoyed incredible success during her time at Clemson. She was a graduating member of the inaugural cohort of the President's Leadership Institute (PLI) — Clemson's nine-month leadership development program supporting a diverse group of faculty and staff — in 2016-17. She was honored as Staff Member of the Game and recognized on the Memorial Stadium field during the first half of Clemson's football contest against Charlotte in September 2019. She was named an honorary member of Omicron Delta Kappa in 2019 and was initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in 2021. Poole completed the Harvard Institute for Management and Leadership in Education in Summer 2022.

Poole has enjoyed the unique distinction of celebrating each of her commencement ceremonies on Clemson's campus. She graduated in Littlejohn Coliseum as part of Seneca High School's class of 1991. A first-generation college student, Poole earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Clemson in 1995. She added a master's degree in education with an emphasis in counseling and guidance services in 2002 and doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis in higher education in 2014.