



Mandy Hays

Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Mandy Hays has been a member of the Division of Student Affairs since 1993 and possesses a rich knowledge of student development and programming. From 2015 until Spring 2024, she held administrative responsibility for the direction and supervision of two departments: Campus Reservations and Events, and the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement. She currently is serving as a special assistant to the vice president and dean of students.

Hays began her affiliation with Student Affairs working in the areas of University Housing and Fraternity and Sorority Life. Her responsibilities eventually grew to include all aspects of campus activities, student leadership and civic engagement. While serving as the director of Campus Activities and Events — a former department in the division — she added major event planning and management, including oversight of day-to-day operations at Littlejohn Coliseum.

Within Campus Reservations and Events, her staff is responsible for handling requests for reservable facilities such as the Barnes Center, Hendrix Student Center, Edgar A. Brown University Union, Memorial Auditorium at Tillman Hall, and outdoor spaces such as Bowman Field, Carillon Garden, Cox Plaza, Scroll of Honor Memorial and the amphitheater. The staff also is responsible for event logistics and technical support.

Hays and the Campus Reservations and Events team have been instrumental to the success of commencement ceremonies each May, August and December. During the 2020-21 academic term, she led a monumental effort to ensure the continuation of graduation ceremonies by successfully moving them from Littlejohn Coliseum on Clemson's campus to Bon Secours Wellness Arena in downtown Greenville, South Carolina. Graduation returned to campus in August 2021.

The Center for Student Leadership and Engagement emerged as a result of the 2019 Student Affairs reorganization. The vision of the center is to create a uniquely Clemson leadership experience from acceptance to graduation that will prepare students to carry those skills with them into their careers and communities. The center is grounded in three foundational pillars: student transitions, involvement and leadership.

Hays arrived at Clemson as a freshman in 1987 and earned a bachelor's degree in education. She later earned a master's degree in student affairs. Hays was a member of the President's Leadership Institute (PLI) cohort in 2021-22 and was one of six inaugural recipients of the Fraternity and Sorority Life Pillars of the Community award in 2023.

A native of Spartanburg, Hays is married and has two sons.