



**DR. MARCIA STRAUGHN,
DEAN OF COLLEGE HEALTH AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Straughn serves as the inaugural dean of McMurry University's College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, home to the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing and the departments of Psychology, Kinesiology, and Human Health Science. She is honored to work alongside exceptional faculty to build on the college's strong foundation, advancing interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic growth, and excellence in education, scholarship, and service.



**DR. MARTHA CRUZ-ZUNIGA,
DEAN OF COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
AND STEM**

Dr. Cruz Zuniga leads McMurry's College of Business & STEM, which includes the Johnson School of Business and the departments of Biology & Biochemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics. She is excited to welcome students as the college begins its first academic year, and to advance innovation and academic excellence across our business and sciences programs. Working alongside faculty and staff, she will continue building partnerships that help students secure jobs and opportunities to succeed, contribute to society, and strengthen ties to the community.



**DR. MARK WATERS,
DEAN OF COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND EDUCATION**

Dr. Waters serves as Dean of Liberal Arts and Education and Professor of Religion at McMurry University. In his new role as dean, he seeks to be an effective advocate for the enduring value of liberal arts and teacher education. He believes these fields cultivate the critical thinking, communication, ethical reasoning, and problem-solving skills employers explicitly seek, while also preparing students for lives of purpose, engaged citizenship, and meaningful service to their communities.



103rd CONVOCATION



CONVOCATION
RADFORD AUDITORIUM
AUGUST 27, 2026
11:00 A.M.

Invocation

Rev. Ricky Harrison '14
University Chaplain and Dean of Students

Dr. Lynne Murray, Presiding

President, McMurry University

Academic Processional

University Faculty and Staff

Dr. Kathie Walker-Millar

Faculty Marshal and Professor of Art

“Hornpipe” from Water Music

G.F. Handel

Dr. David Amlung, Trumpet

Mr. Marc Sanders, Piano

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests

Dr. Lynne Murray

President

Recognition of Ms. Susan Decker

Gwin Bode

Constitution Representative, Office of Jodey Arrington

Introduction of the Student and Faculty Member

Dr. Cindy Martin

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Greetings to the Students

Mr. Daniel Friday

President, McMurry Student Government

Welcome from the Faculty

Dr. TJ Boyle

Professor of Biology

Introduction of the Guest Speakers

Dr. Cindy Martin

Convocation Address

Dr. Marcia Straughn

Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Science

Dr. Martha Cruz-Zuniga

Dean, College of Business and STEM

Dr. Mark Waters

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Education

McMurry University Alma Mater

Mr. Nathaniel Herman

Adjunct Instructor of Music and Director of Chanters

Benediction

Rev. Ricky Harrison '14

Recessional*

“Trumpet Voluntary”

Henry Purcell

Dr. David Amlung, Trumpet

Mr. Marc Sanders, Piano

*Please remain seated until the faculty leaves the auditorium.