

Gregory P. Crawford  
President  
Miami University

Gregory P. Crawford is the 22nd president of Miami University. A native of Elyria, Ohio, he came to Miami in July 2016. He previously served as Vice President and Associate Provost for the University of Notre Dame from 2015-2016, Dean of Science at Notre Dame from 2008-2015, and Dean of Engineering at Brown University from 2006-2008. He earned his bachelor's (mathematics and physics), master's (physics), and doctorate (chemical physics) degrees from Kent State University. Crawford's entrepreneurial spirit pervades everything he does, from his early-career research to his development of curricula to his own work as an entrepreneur and his passion to use his skills as an entrepreneurial academician on behalf of others.

A trained physicist, Crawford has practiced entrepreneurship throughout his career in industry and the academy. He has more than 400 research and education publications, review articles and book chapters, and more than 20 U.S. patents and patent applications. He views entrepreneurship as more than an activity – a mindset that sees possibility and seizes opportunity.

Since his arrival at Miami, President Crawford has emphasized diversity and inclusion, engagement with students, collaboration, interdisciplinary study, and entrepreneurship across all of Miami's campuses and colleges. He actively engages federal, state and local policymakers and stakeholders to advance entrepreneurship. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors at Cintrifuse, the incubator and accelerator dedicated to creating a stronger technology presence in Greater Cincinnati. He is active in the Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC), the association representing Ohio's 14 public universities.

Crawford's professional career and passion for entrepreneurship began at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) in Silicon Valley, where he was part of a spin-out company for flat panel display technology called dpiX. Crawford was co-founder of two startup companies, Myomics, a drug discovery company based on an innovative drug testing platform using human muscle tissue, and Corum Medical, producer of a non-invasive optical device to measure hemoglobin from the eye without taking any blood. He has licensed patents to firms for use in projection technology and fast-switching optical devices. He was funded by the National Science Foundation to teach entrepreneurship to incarcerated juveniles at the Rhode Island Training School.

At Brown, Crawford and Professor Eric M. Suuberg received a four-year National Science Foundation grant to train engineering students in entrepreneurship through experiential learning with local startups and industry. He and Suuberg also launched the Program in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship (PRIME), where students spend one year developing a company embedded in the university, leveraging either their own idea or a faculty member's. His curriculum work extended to Ph.D. students, who took a semester-long course where they developed a commercial plan from their basic work.

At Notre Dame, Crawford adapted PRIME to create the Engineering, Science, and Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence (ESTEEM) Program in collaboration with the deans of Business and Engineering. He created an innovation postdoctoral fellows program for Ph.D. graduates and a multi-million-dollar philanthropic fund so students could invest in seed-stage companies. He planned and launched Notre Dame California, a satellite location in Silicon Valley.