

## Southern Region

### George M. Hopper

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and Dean of the College of Forest Resources,  
Director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center  
Mississippi State University



George demonstrates a calm, thoughtful and collaborative approach to leadership that inspires confidence and loyalty. Having served the Land-grant mission for nearly 34 years in a multitude of capacities from Professor to Department Head, to Dean and Director, George has left an indelible imprint on agricultural and natural resources management in the Southeast U. S.

Since assuming the role as Director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in 2010, Dr. Hopper has been actively engaged with the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD), serving as Chair in 2015, representative to ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee in 2016 and SAAESD representative to the Southern Rural Development Center Board of Directors from 2011 – present.

For more than 17 years he has been involved in regional and national leadership within the natural resources arena. He has served on the National Association of University Forest

Resources Programs Executive Committee, including service as President. He served as chair of the Board of Natural Resources for APLU and has provided broad leadership within APLU. He has also served for nearly 20 years on the Executive Committee of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hopper has provided exemplary leadership, foraged partnerships and epitomized the servant-leadership philosophy that permeates his management style at home and abroad. He is passionate about student education and committed to facilitating research and discovery that enhances productivity, profitability and sustainability of our agricultural producers. Most importantly, he is a man of high personal integrity and his care for people as individuals is illustrated in all of his interactions. His leadership has exemplified the highest level of excellence, enhancing the performance of the Land-grant system in the state, region and nation.

George earned his B.S. and M.S. at Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech University.