

## Andrea Luxton

This afternoon, the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Andrea Luxton, whose invaluable moral leadership in the face of crisis and even-handedness in response to vexing difficulties have distinguished her among her colleagues.

Luxton was born in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, the daughter of educators, and early developed a passion for teaching. She received a BA in theology and English from Newbold College, an MA in English from Andrews University, a PhD in English from Catholic University of America and a Postgraduate Diploma in Institutional Management and Change in Higher Education from the University of Twente, Netherlands.

Her career in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States has been committed to furthering Adventist education. She has served in secondary, higher education, Union and General Conference positions. In 2010, Luxton moved to Andrews University, first as provost and then, in 2016, as our sixth—and first woman—president.

During her early months as president, Luxton became directly acquainted with students and employees through hosting a series of campus tea parties. She soon became known for her belief in the power of Story, including stories from the Bible which often infused her formal and informal presentations on campus. Dr. Luxton consistently used the power of Story for moments of both joy and challenge—an example of her distinctive calm, steady leadership even in times of crisis.

In that context, Luxton was also known to successfully build on unique opportunities, such as her response to the student-inspired #ItIsTimeAU movement. Her public response in Chapel began with the words “We will be okay,” and in her Chapel talk she turned to the biblical story of the paralytic lowered through a roof to Jesus as an eloquent example of where God calls us to place our attention in times of dramatic need. The transformative steps outlined in her Chapel talk that day included the creation and hiring of the University’s first Cabinet-level/vice president position dedicated to diversity.

During Luxton’s presidency, the Berrien Springs campus was transformed physically, academically and strategically. Fundraising for and construction of the Andreasen Center for Wellness was completed, the University’s seven major academic units were reduced to five, and the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship was introduced.

Beginning in 2020, Luxton’s presidency was influenced by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside Provost Christon Arthur and a COVID-19 management team, she guided Andrews through the rapid transition to online learning, hybrid learning, remote study and work arrangements, and careful monitoring and ongoing adjustment of COVID-19 mitigation protocols once in-person education resumed here in Berrien Springs. Her most recent strategic plan

responds to the new environment Andrews University operates in amidst the significant impact of COVID-19 on all of higher education.

Luxton has written a number of articles for professional and church publications, often connecting her passions for literature, education and the life of faith. She is also an experienced international speaker both for and outside of church audiences. Her hobbies include reading world literature, walking by the ocean and traveling to remote destinations.

For her contributions to Andrews University, the global Adventist higher education system, the Michigan Collegiate Association and the countless lives she has enriched along the way, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Andrea Luxton with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.