Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins was appointed President of Bennett College on July 5, 2017, after serving as Interim President for nearly a year and as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. During her tenure, Bennett College has signed Memorandums of Understanding with American Language Academy, Pfeiffer University and Winston-Salem State University. Also under her leadership, the College started its English as a Second Language program, online courses and Mini-mester (abbreviated) courses, and alumnae giving topped $1 million!

Dr. Dawkins has been highly visible in the Greensboro community and has reinvigorated Bennett’s relationship with various denominations, particularly its founding denomination The United Methodist church. Before coming to Bennett College, Dr. Dawkins worked at Cheyney University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Dawkins earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, a Master of Arts from The University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science from Johnson C. Smith University.

She is married to Dr. Bobby G. Dawkins, and they have two adult daughters: Malia Dawkins Jennings (Derek), M.A., an actress, writer/producer and account manager for NCompass International; and Demi Dawkins, M.D., who is in a Neurosurgery Residency at the University of Wisconsin.