

## **Robert (Bo) L. Garrett, Jr.**



Bo Garrett was born in Jackson, Mississippi. He grew up in Jackson, New Orleans, and Florence, Alabama attending independent schools through eighth grade. After high school he attended Birmingham-Southern College and graduated with a B.A. in history in 1995. He returned home to Florence where he did postgraduate work at the University of North Alabama (UNA) to earn his state teaching certificate. During his time at UNA he took his first geography class and was inspired to pursue the discipline. His passion for geography led him to the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. where he worked for the Society's Education Foundation. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001 he decided to leave D.C. and head home to Alabama where he took a job teaching fourth and fifth grade social studies at Highlands School, an independent, K-8 in Birmingham. He thoroughly enjoyed his seven years with the fourth and fifth graders. Following the 2010 school year, Mr. Garrett accepted a promotion to the middle school where enrollment had suffered for years. He and his team helped implement the school's new vision for the middle school. With the support of the school's administration and Highlands' families, they were able to steadily increase enrollment. The team has sustained their success and today the middle school is thriving. While serving his school over the last 15 years, Mr. Garrett completed his Masters degree (M.Ed) in Private School Leadership at Columbia University and an Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Continuing education has been a high priority for Mr. Garrett, but some of his best lessons have come courtesy of his two beautiful children, Tatum, his daughter, who is in seventh grade and his son, Doss, who is in 4K. Both children attend Highlands School. Most importantly, he is the grateful husband to Jill Dodd Garrett, without whose support he would have achieved little, if any, success. Mr. Garrett, a strong advocate for independent education and the K-8 model, looks forward to continuing his efforts to improve the independent school experience for all stakeholders.