

Mr. David F. Hales

President, College of the Atlantic

Hales was inaugurated as the fifth president of College of the Atlantic in 2006. Under his leadership, College of the Atlantic is the first university in the United States to become a "NetZero" emitter of greenhouse gases, and one of the first institutions in the United States to commit to being 100% reliant on renewable energy by 2015.

President Hales has held numerous positions promoting sustainability nationally and internationally. Most recently, Hales has been Counsel for Sustainability Policy to Worldwatch Institute, an independent research organization focused on energy, resource and environmental issues. Previously, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the United States Department of the Interior, was Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and directed environmental policy and sustainability programs of the United States Agency for International Development. From 1980 to 1987, Hales held the Samuel Trask Dana Chair of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.

He has frequently been called upon to serve as chair or moderator of international conferences, including the Bonn Conference on Renewable Energy and the Hague Conference on Energy for Development and the World Conservation Congress Forum on Renewable Energy and Climate Change. He has represented the United States in multilateral negotiations, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention to Prevent Desertification, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Rio Plus 5 and Habitat II, as well as in meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Settlements and Commission on Sustainable Development.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Hales holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in political science from Hardin-Simmons University. He and his wife Barbara McLeod share a home on Mount Desert Island with their son, Daniel. Hales has three grown children, Joshua, Nathaniel and Lisa Davis, and two grandchildren, Taylor and Parker Davis