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The Reverend Doctor William Archer Rutherford Goodwin: Can Leadership Resurrect and Restore the Past?

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THE REVEREND DOCTOR WILLIAM ARCHER RUTHERFOORD GOODWIN:

CAN LEADERSHIP RESURRECT AND RESTORE THE PAST?

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Education

Susan Hutzler Venatta

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Title: The Reverend Doctor William Archer Rutherford Goodwin: Can Leadership Resurrect and Restore the Past?

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This study identified the leadership traits of The Reverend Doctor W.A.R. Goodwin that allowed his vision of the restoration of an entire city to become the reality that is now known as Colonial Williamsburg. The growth and transformation of the country at the turn of the 20th century form the basis of this study while analyzing the manner in which the restoration was formulated, financed, and ultimately brought to fruition; the study showcases the leadership prowess of W.A.R. Goodwin at a time of great change in America.

Specifically, the study analyzed how Goodwin's leadership style is aligned with the five practices of exemplary leadership concepts presented by Kouzes and Posner (2007) in that leaders model the way, inspire a shared vision, overcome objections, enable others to act and encourage the heart. The method used to conduct the study was an examination of archival data relating to Goodwin's life and events before, during, and after the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia. The research brought to light how Goodwin set examples for others to follow, convinced others to see his vision and dream, took advantage of opportunities presented to him in spite of the obstacles, created an environment in which others could participate and realize the benefits, and celebrated the community of Williamsburg, past, present and future.