



DR. PETER F. BURNHAM

Dr. Peter F. Burnham has served as President of Brookdale Community College for 16 years. During his tenure the College's enrollment has increased over 25%; major programmatic and facilities changes have been implemented; and significant partnerships with major corporations, as well as other higher education institutions, have been developed. The College has been recognized as one of the leading county colleges in the United States.

Formerly, Dr. Burnham served as President of Schenectady County Community College, part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system for seven years. He was elected President of the Association of Presidents of Public Community Colleges in New York in 1989. Dr. Burnham served as Academic Vice President/Dean at Tompkins-Cortland Community College, Dryden, New York, from 1977 to 1984. He was a full Professor, Coordinator of Developmental Education, and Director of Institutional Development at Prince George's Community College, Largo, Maryland, from 1969-1977.

During his tenure at Brookdale, Monmouth County, New Jersey, Dr. Burnham has been actively involved in a number of diverse organizations including serving as a member of the Board of the New Jersey State Chamber. He is the Secretary of Corporate Board of Directors of the Meridian Health System/Jersey Shore Medical Center as well as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Secretary of the Executive Committee and a member of the Budget, Education, Finance, and Nominating Committees and a member of the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. In 2003 he was elected a Commissioner of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and served as Vice Chair from 2005-2007. Dr. Burnham presently is Chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (2008-2010).

In March 1994, Governor Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey appointed Dr. Burnham to the Governor's Panel on Restructuring Higher Education, which developed the landmark report that redefined higher education in New Jersey. He was subsequently elected to the position of Secretary and Vice Chair of the New Jersey College Presidents' Council, which oversees all of higher education in New Jersey. In July 1998, he was elected Chair of the Presidents' Council, the first community college president to serve in that role. He continues to be a member of the New Jersey College Presidents' Council. He served, *ex officio*, as a member of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Burnham served as Chair of the millennium review process for the *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education*, which is the guiding document of standards that determines accreditation for all 600+ institutions in the Middle States region. The review was completed in 2001. He is presently a member of the New Jersey Council of County College serving on the Executive Committee and will

Chair a special Task Force on Articulation and Transfer Issues in New Jersey. He is also a member of Cornell University's Institute for Community College Development.

Dr. Burnham has been a national consultant for community college education and is extensively involved in accreditation work on behalf of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities.

A 35-year veteran of public community colleges, Dr. Burnham is recognized nationwide as one of the strongest advocates for these institutions. He received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Community College Leaders Program at the University of Texas at Austin. For his community service, Dr. Burnham was awarded the Humanitarian Leadership Award by the National Conference in 1995. In April, 1997, he received the Distinguished Presidential Leadership Award from the National Office of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, nationwide, representing over 1,200 colleges. In June, 1999, he was awarded the 1999 Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer Award from the Association of Community College Trustees. In April 2001, Dr. Burnham received the Partnership Education Award from the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board; and in May 2001, he received the Management Recognition Award from the National Council for Research and Planning. In February 2002, he was named recipient of the Paul A. Elsner Excellence in Leadership Award by The International Chair Academy in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Burnham received a B.A. in English and Economics from St. Francis College, Loretto, Pennsylvania, and an M.A. degree in American Literature from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Burnham was awarded a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He has written extensively in the field of both English and educational administration.

Dr. Burnham and his wife, Vicky, reside in Colts Neck with their two sons. Dr. Burnham's daughter, Kris, works in Washington, DC.

Updated: January 17, 2008