

Dr. Steven R. Wallace, College President

Steven Ray Wallace became the College's fourth President on July 28, 1997. His résumé includes professional service in Minnesota, Ohio and California. In all, Dr. Wallace has spent more than 30 years working in community and state colleges, starting with his alma mater, Chaffey College in California.

Dr. Wallace has served as both an instructor and administrator during his career. He began as an adjunct faculty member at Chaffey, and in 1975, became a full-time faculty member in the college's innovative Learning Center. In 1977, Dr. Wallace became Chaffey's district director of learning disabilities and subsequently served as director of marketing and legislative affairs for the 20,000 student college.

In 1981, Dr. Wallace left Chaffey for Lakeland Community College in Ohio. There he served as vice president for administrative services for nine years. Dr. Wallace administered a wide range of college functions including finance, facilities, computer services, human resources, strategic planning, admissions and registration, legislative and legal affairs, and the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Dr. Wallace has held two previous college presidencies — both in Minnesota: first at Austin Community College (1990-92) and then at Inver Hills Community College (1992-97). He also held statewide responsibilities concerning faculty professional development, academic and administrative computing, labor relations, and distance learning. He is recognized nationally for his leadership in community economic development, student success initiatives, academic technology and community college baccalaureate degrees.

Dr. Wallace earned an associate in arts degree in 1972 from Chaffey College, followed by bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from California State University at San Bernardino. He received a doctorate in higher education administration in 1989 from Claremont Graduate University in California. His dissertation was on economic development. He has authored chapters in several books and is a frequent speaker at national higher education conferences.

Dr. Wallace's tenure at the 80,000 student Florida State College at Jacksonville has been devoted to enhancing the College's responsiveness to student, employer and community needs. Dr. Wallace was instrumental in securing authorization for the College to grant baccalaureate degrees and to change the name from Florida Community College at Jacksonville to Florida State College at Jacksonville in 2009. Under his leadership, the College has made significant advancement in student access and success, technology, program development and facilities construction on all five campuses – plus the development of two new campuses.

Since arriving in Jacksonville, Dr. Wallace has been actively involved in the community serving on numerous local boards such as the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce (2007 chair), Alliance for World Class Education (2008 vice chair), WJCT Public Broadcasting (2005 chair), Prosperity Scholarship Fund Governing Council (chair), Take Stock in Children (2001-04 chair), United Way, Communities in Schools, First Coast YMCA, Enterprise North Florida, WorkSource, Jacksonville Symphony, and the Schultz Center for Teaching & Leadership. His state-wide leadership roles have included chairmanship of the Florida Community College Council of Presidents and appointments to the boards of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, North Florida Technology Alliance, Florida Distance Learning Consortium, Florida Virtual Campus (co-chair), Enterprise Florida Life Sciences Advisory Committee, and the Business & Higher Education Partnership of the Florida Council of 100. At the national level, he was vice-chair of the Community College Baccalaureate Association. He was a member of Leadership Florida's Class 18 (2000), the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 1999, and is currently a member of the Downtown Jacksonville Rotary.

Dr. Wallace resides on the Southside with his wife, Amelia — a teacher — and two children, Devon (27) and Michael (17).