

Tod A. Burnett, Ed.D.

Biography

Tod A. Burnett, Ed.D. is president of the University of Alaska Foundation and chief development officer of the University of Alaska. A visionary and performance-driven leader with a distinguished career in the higher education, business, government, and non-profit sectors, Dr. Burnett comes to the University of Alaska from Brandman University where he served as executive vice chancellor of advancement where he developed the university's first alumni and fundraising program and expanded strategic partnerships. He served one year as the interim dean of the School of Education, the third largest provider of teaching credentials in California and one of the leading doctoral programs in organizational leadership. Dr. Burnett also has been an adjunct professor in the doctoral program since 2010.

From 2008 to 2017, Dr. Burnett served as president of Saddleback College. As the eighth largest community college in California with over 40,000 students, Saddleback has been ranked among the top community colleges in the nation. Prior to Saddleback, Dr. Burnett served as vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges—the nation's largest higher education system with 113 colleges and more than 2.3 million students.

Dr. Burnett's career includes positions in the office of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, as the director of state and local government relations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and as a commissioner on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works where he was responsible for 6,000 employees and \$1 billion annual budget maintaining the city's public infrastructure and providing public safety, health, and environmental programs. Before entering public service full-time, Dr. Burnett enjoyed extensive private business experience having worked in banking and financial services and holding management positions in several small companies and entrepreneurial ventures.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Burnett has served on a number of business, non-profit, and government boards and commissions, and was recognized by more than 75 national, state, and local public officials and organizations for his numerous contributions to the community and social causes.

Dr. Burnett is a first-generation college graduate and believes in promoting educational opportunities and economic prosperity. His passion for education and leadership began 25 years ago through his active involvement with the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program, whose mission was to inspire and develop a global community of young people dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.

Dr. Burnett holds an Education Doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University, a Master of Business Administration from University of Southern California, a Bachelor of Arts in political science from University of California, Riverside, and a Certificate in State and Local Government Leadership from Harvard University.

As of December 2020