



**President
Brevard Community College
Cocoa, Florida**

James Drake, PhD.

James Drake joined the University of Central Florida administration in June 1994, where he served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the UCF Southern Region campuses, in partnership with Brevard Community College. During his twelve-year tenure, he worked closely with the BCC administration and with community leaders to increase access to affordable higher education for Brevard County residents.

In collaboration with BCC President Maxwell C. King, and later with President Thomas E. Gamble, Dr. Drake expanded the BCC-UCF “Two Plus Two” partnership, through which BCC graduates can pursue four-year and graduate-level degrees at the BCC-UCF joint campuses in Cocoa and Palm Bay.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Drake earned the Ph.D. degree from the Ohio State University in 1973. Two years earlier, while completing his doctoral studies, he accepted an offer to join the faculty of Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY).

In 1979, Dr. Drake joined the University of Tampa (Tampa, FL) as Dean of Metro College, and also served as Assistant Provost of the University. Subsequently, he was named Vice President and Dean of Findlay College (now the University of Findlay), where he served from 1984-87. In June 1987, he accepted a research consultancy and equity partnership with The Travis Group, Inc. In 1988, Dr. Drake joined the South Carolina higher-education system as Executive Director of the University Center of Greenville.

The author of seven books and more than fifty articles, Dr. Drake has remained active as a writer and researcher throughout his career. Two of his books, *Ponselle: A Singer's Life*, and *Richard Tucker: A Biography*. Locally, Dr. Drake co-authored the book *Cocoa: A Living History*. He is a contributor to *American National Biography*.

The range of his service to the community has included United Way of Brevard County, Junior Achievement of East Central Florida, Brevard County Schools Foundation, LEAD Brevard, the Board of Directors of Wuesthoff Health Systems, among others. Dr. Drake is founding and current chair of the Education for Economic Development Committee of the Economic Development Commission.

He and his wife, Magali (Maggie), make their home in Viera. His stepdaughters, Dr. Magali Balado-Zeiters (School Psychologist, Osceola County School District) and Ms. Kristie A. Balado (Speech Pathologist, Brevard County School District), are alumnae of Brevard Community College.