

About the Speaker: Graham B. Spanier

Graham B. Spanier, President The Pennsylvania State University

Graham B. Spanier became president of Penn State in 1995 after serving as a member of the university faculty from 1973 to 1982 and in three administrative positions in what now is Penn State's College of Health and Human Development. He currently is a professor of human development and family studies, of sociology, of demography, and of family and community medicine. Dr. Spanier previously was chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Oregon State University, and vice provost for undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

As president of Penn State, Dr. Spanier has been the guiding force behind several academic initiatives, including the creation of The Schreyer Honors College, the Penn State World Campus, and the School of Information Sciences and Technology. He oversaw the university's merger with The Dickinson School of Law and promoted a new general education curriculum, including increased internationalization of the university. He currently is leading a \$1-billion capital campaign to raise endowments in support of the academic community.

Dr. Spanier holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and bachelor's and master's degrees from Iowa State University. He is recognized as a distinguished researcher and scholar in demography, family sociology, and marriage and family therapy. He has more than 100 scholarly publications, including 10 books, to his credit.

A national leader in higher education, Dr. Spanier is chair of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and a member of the Association's Executive Committee. He is chair of the National Association of State and Land-Grant Colleges Council of Presidents and co-chair of the Association of Academic Health Centers Council on Health Sciences and the University. He has chaired the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Council and a founding member of the Board of Directors of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (Internet 2).

In addition to his various roles in higher education, Graham Spanier is a magician, has a commercial pilot's license, plays washboard with the Deacons of Dixieland, and is an avid fan of intercollegiate sports. He and his wife Sandra, an English professor specializing in 20th century American literature, have two children.