

SARAH H. PAPPAS

President, Manatee Community College

BIOGRAPHY & MCC HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Sarah H. Pappas was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and spent the early years of her life in Havana, Cuba, and Mexico City. Her family later moved to the United States where she attended high school and Penn State University, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in general arts and sciences. Pappas received her master's degree in social science education from the University of South Florida and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Nova Southeastern University.

Pappas has been a resident of Florida for the past 40 years and has lived in Tampa, North Palm Beach, Daytona Beach, and now in the Bradenton/Sarasota area. She is married to artist George Pappas, and they have two children: Tom, an artist in Boston, and Jane, a bank training officer in Jacksonville, Fla., and two grandchildren.

Pappas' experience in Florida's higher education system includes 40 years of holding progressively more responsible positions at three different community colleges and the University of Central Florida. In 2007-08, she is completing 11 years as president of Manatee Community College, a college that serves more than 30,000 citizens each year, has a budget of \$50 million and employs more than 900 people.

In her tenure as MCC president, Pappas has led the College in numerous initiatives and expansions:

- Achieved the highest possible accreditation reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Added new programs in Health Science, Information Technology and Teacher Preparation
- Increased enrollment to an all-time high while lowering class size
- Awarded diplomas to more than 10,000 graduating students at MCC commencements
- Completed more than 140 initiatives in the 2002-2006 Strategic Plan
- Led fundraising that resulted in increase of MCC Foundation total assets from \$8.7M to \$47M
- Initiated and oversaw the College's expansion to a third campus at Lakewood Ranch
- Invested \$49M for improvement of campus facilities, new buildings and technology
- Developed new business partnerships to serve Workforce Development needs of the two-county area
- Increased library holdings and circulation rates
- Established the first African-American history museum at a community college
- Presided over the College's year-long 50th anniversary celebration events
- Provided for a competitive salary schedule for both faculty and personnel

Dr. Pappas is active in the community and has a current and long record of service in a leadership capacity on numerous state and local boards.

STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND APPOINTMENTS (partial listing)

- Chair, Sarasota Economic Development Corporation (2007-08)
- Board of Directors, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
- Board of Directors Florida High Tech Corridor Council (FHTCC)
- Economic Development Council, Manatee County
- Board of Directors, Manatee County Chamber of Commerce (2007-08)
- Suncoast Workforce Development Board of Directors
- SCOPE – Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence
- Advisory Board, Whitney National Bank
- Bradenton Kiwanis Club
- The Civic League, Sarasota
- Florida Women's Alliance
- Chair, United Way Board of Directors, Manatee County (2002-03)
- President, Florida Community College Activities Association (2002-04)
- Florida Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, elected to the Board of Directors 1994-1997

HONORS (partial listing)

- 2007 Sarasota Magazine – 100 Most Powerful People in Sarasota Today
- 2006 University of South Florida President's Distinguished Citizen Award
- 2005 Woman of Light Award – Women's International Conference

- 2005 People of Vision Award – Prevent Blindness of Florida
- 2005 Woman of Excellence Award – Manatee Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Community Hero nominated to carry the Olympic Torch in Volusia Co. for the 1996 Summer Olympics
- Volusia County Women’s Hall of Fame, inducted December, 1996

8/17/07 – MCC Public Affairs & Marketing