



J. BERNARD “BERNIE” MACHEN was appointed Florida’s 11th president in January, 2004. During his tenure, he has expanded the university’s research and scholarship endeavors, elevated its educational programs and increased access to students from a diversity of economic backgrounds – all while shepherding the university through an era of growing financial challenges.

Under President Machen’s leadership, UF’s annual research funding has soared to \$678 million. He has presided over a major expansion of research facilities, grown UF’s noted technology commercialization enterprise, and led the Florida Tomorrow capital campaign, a five-year effort that is nearing its goal of \$1.5 billion by 2012.

A longtime advocate for giving students from all walks of life the chance to attend college, Dr. Machen in 2005 pioneered the Florida Opportunity Scholars program, which pays tuition and room and board for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nearly 2,000 students have attended UF as recipients of the scholarship.

Like other universities nationwide, UF has faced several years of declining state support. Dr. Machen has led Florida’s 11 public universities’ response to these declines, successfully advocating lawmakers to step up statewide tuition increases while allowing universities greater flexibility in setting their own tuition. President Machen also launched a university-wide sustainability campaign considered a model in public higher education.

Prior to his appointment at UF, Dr. Machen served for six years as president of the University of Utah. His previous positions include provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan; dean of dentistry at the University of Michigan and associate dean at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry.

A member of the Florida Council of 100, he has held several prominent positions in statewide and national higher education leadership – including as a member of the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. He earned his doctor of dental surgery from St. Louis University and doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Iowa, both of which have honored him with distinguished alumnus awards.

He and his wife, Chris, a former nurse who has been heavily involved in the university’s environmental initiatives, have three children and four grandchildren.