

Dr. Jack Burke

Selected as New CEO and Dean

On March 21, 2003, Penn State's Board of Trustees named Dr. John D. "Jack" Burke campus executive officer (CEO) and dean at Penn State Behrend. Burke had served as the interim leader of the college since July 1, 2001, and has been a key leader in the development and success of Penn State Behrend since 1981.

In announcing Burke's appointment, Rodney Erickson, executive vice president and provost of Penn State, stressed both his in-depth understanding of the college and the superb job he has done as interim CEO and dean. "I am certain," Erickson said, "that Jack Burke will continue to serve with great distinction and with unwavering dedication to the faculty, staff, and students of Behrend College and the Erie community."

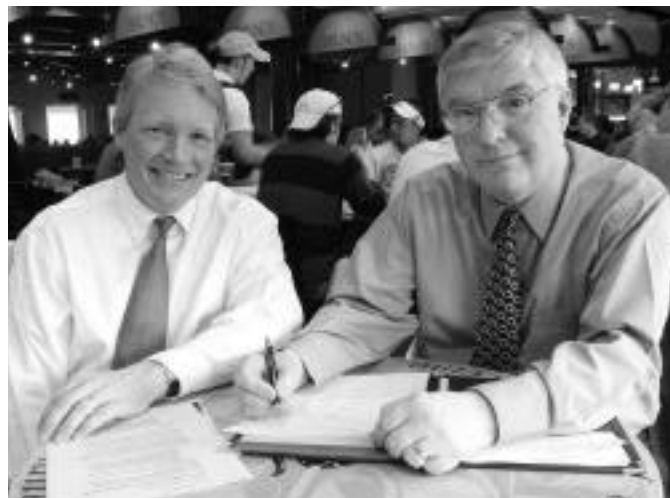
Burke was hired in 1981 by Dr. John Lilley, whose departure for the presidency of the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2001 created the vacancy Burke has now filled. The name of the position was changed from "provost and dean" to "CEO and dean" to correspond to the structure used at other Penn State locations across the commonwealth.

In his previous position as senior associate provost and senior associate dean, Burke was responsible for day-to-day operations of the college, including academic support units and services such as admissions, the registrar, the library, computer and information systems, and the honors/scholars program. He also played a lead role in strategic planning, development of academic programs, budgeting, and capital construction.

Dr. Burke often meets with faculty, staff, and students at Bruno's Café. Here he confers with Dr. John Magenau, director of the School of Business.

The strides that have been made at Behrend over the last twenty-plus years have been truly impressive, and Jack Burke was involved in them all. The college has gone from twelve four-year undergraduate majors to thirty, and now there are also three master's programs in place. Today 80 percent of all Behrend students graduate from Behrend, which is a reversal of the situation in the early 1980s, when 80 percent transferred to University Park and only 20 percent stayed here for all four years.

Burke's stewardship of the college's enrollment management process has also paid big dividends: from fewer than 1,800 students twenty years ago, the college has grown to



As the college's chief academic and administrative officer, Burke will be responsible for the quality of Penn State Erie's academic programs in teaching, research, and service, and overall operations of the campus, including strategic planning and budgeting, fund-raising, alumni and community relations, intercollegiate athletics, outreach activities, faculty and staff development and personnel matters.

3,700 today. The resident student population has increased even more, from 600 to 1,500. And the opening of Senat Hall in the fall of 2004 will add another 10 percent.

Burke's appointment as CEO and dean was the culmination of a national search that drew applications from nearly 150 candidates from across the country. P.C. "Hoop" Roche, chairman of Penn State Behrend's Council of Fellows, said the process resulted in an excellent selection. "Jack Burke was high on our list all along," said Roche, a community leader and chairman of Erie Plastics. "I am very enthusiastic about his appointment because he is so well-respected in the community. In accepting this position, Jack Burke allows us to maintain our momentum and keep Penn State Behrend moving steadily forward."



Jack Burke: **THE FACTS**

Title:

Campus Executive Officer (CEO) and Dean

Experience:

Interim CEO and dean, Penn State Behrend, 2001-03
Senior associate provost and senior associate dean, Penn State Behrend, 1981-2001
Associate dean, State University of New York, Empire College, 1978 - 1981

Education:

B.A., State University College at Oswego, N.Y.
M.A., State University of New York at Buffalo
Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo
Certificate, Harvard University Institute for Educational Management

Family:

Jack and his wife, Candy, have two daughters, Heather, 29, and Hilary, 24



Q&A with the New CEO and Dean

Quarterly: What do you say we ask a few quick questions or toss out words or phrases, and you say whatever comes to mind first?

Jack Burke: Fair enough. Fire away.

Q: CEO and Dean?

JB: Great job. Big challenge.

Q: Reactions so far?

JB: The only constant in this job is change.

Q: Leadership style?

JB: Hands on. Laid back.

Q: Your day-to-day approach to your job?

JB: Work hard and have fun.

Q: Favorite place to work?

JB: Bruno's—the popular deli on the second floor of the Reed Building. It's a great spot to keep in touch with students, faculty, and staff. The coffee is good too, and I *do* like a good cup of coffee.

Q: What are you proudest of after twenty-two years at Behrend?

JB: No. 1: The excellent faculty and staff we have now.

No. 2: The ever-improving quality of the students we're attracting.

No. 3: The way we've been able to enhance the beauty of the campus while doubling in size.

Q: Biggest challenges?

JB: The scarcity of resources facing the University. We need to raise more money to make sure academic quality does not suffer.

Q: Where are those funds going to come from?

JB: Alumni. Friends. Everyone who believes in our mission here is a "prospect."

Q: How are you going to use those funds?

JB: Scholarships come first. We're proud that we awarded students over a half-million dollars in scholarships this academic year, the most ever. We have to make sure those numbers keep going up

Q: Any other numbers you want to mention?

JB: We do about three million dollars a year in faculty research. We're very proud of that, but we want to see it continue to grow too.

Q: On the personal side: any hobbies?

JB: Reading. I especially enjoy Hemmingway and novelist Richard Russo.

Q: And, finally, are you really as funny and easygoing as everyone says?

JB: Actually, humor *is* one of the fundamental tenets of my administrative philosophy. A healthy sense of humor helps everyone's morale.