



James F. Barker **Professor Emeritus of** **Architecture and** **President**

During Barker's 14-year presidency, Clemson rose steadily in national rankings, and a goal he established was achieved in 2014 when the Clemson was ranked 20th among all national public universities. The university launched the successful The Will to Lead capital campaign, constructed or renovated 1.4 million square feet of space, saw a double-digit increase in graduation rates and had record growth in undergraduate and graduate applications.

Barker also held numerous national higher education leadership positions, including chair of the NCAA Division 1 board of directors, president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, chair of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC), and chair of the ACC Council of Presidents.

Barker has been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the James. T. Rogers Meritorious Service Award from SACSCOC, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District III Chief Executive Leadership Award, and induction into the Boys and Girl Clubs of America Hall of Fame. Clemson's Rutland Institute for Ethics named its annual Ethics in Action award for him. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Barker was awarded the Clemson Medallion in 2016.

Barker graduated from Clemson in 1970 and earned his Master of Architecture and urban design degree from Washington University at St. Louis. He and his wife, Marcia, have two sons and a daughter-in-law, all of whom attended Clemson; and three grandchildren. Their youngest son, Britt, is continuing studies in psychology; Jacob earned a master's from Clemson in 2004 and is a marketing strategist at the university; and Jacob's wife, Rita Bolt Barker, graduated in 2001. She was the first woman elected president of the Clemson student body and is currently a practicing attorney in Greenville.