

Betty L. Siegel

Biography

Distinguished Chair of the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character; President Emeritus of Kennesaw State University; educator, leader, author, lecturer, founder, innovator....the descriptive list could go on and on. Nearly impossible is the feat of describing Dr. Betty L. Siegel. She was the first woman to head a university in the University System of Georgia and the longest serving woman president of a public university in the nation, serving from 1981-2006. During her tenure, Kennesaw State University grew from 4000 students with 15 baccalaureate-degree programs to 18,000 students with 55 baccalaureate and graduate degree programs. A long-time member and former chair of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and former member of the Commission on Women in Higher Education, Dr. Siegel currently serves on numerous corporate and community boards.

Dr. Siegel has implemented many global initiatives that have taken her worldwide to spread the message of leadership, ethics and character. Her signature program, The Oxford Conclave on Global Ethics, launched in 2005 at Oxford University. As a visiting scholar, Dr. Siegel spent three months in 2007 at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, developing new programs for leadership development and expansion. In 2008, Dr. Siegel initiated the Stellenbosch Seboka on Higher Education and Ethical Leadership: Global Perspectives in a South African Context, a conference of university presidents, rectors and vice chancellors from throughout South Africa. Speakers at that conference included Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and former South Africa Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson.

With long-time colleague Dr. William Purkey, Dr. Siegel co-founded the International Alliance for Invitational Education. The world-wide membership of IAIE consists of professionals who seek to apply the concepts of invitational education to their personal and professional lives. Dr. Siegel and Dr. Purkey also co-authored *Becoming an Invitational Leader* in 2002.

The most recent book honoring the life and work of Dr. Betty L. Siegel is *Wintering into Wisdom: A Festschrift for Dr. Betty Lentz Siegel*, edited by Elizabeth Giddens. "Festschrifts" are collections of original essays honoring respected educational leaders during their lifetime. Included in *Wintering into Wisdom*, are compositions by Dr. Siegel's husband, Dr. Joel Siegel; her sons Dr. David Siegel and Dr. Michael Siegel; and notables such as United States Senator Johnny Isakson and novelist Ferrol Sams.

Retirement has not slowed President Emeritus Siegel down. She continues as an international motivational speaker on leadership, character education and the concerns of women, having delivered keynote addresses throughout the 50 states, Puerto Rico and ten foreign countries. Dr. Siegel has served as a consultant to educational, business, not-for-profit organizations, health services, government and civic groups. Because of her strong commitment to servant leadership, Dr. Siegel is committed to community service and continues her active presence on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

Dr. Betty Siegel and her husband Joel have two sons who are professors and two grandsons.