



**President  
Gulf Coast Community College  
Panama City, Florida**

**Dr. A. James Kerley, Ph.D.**

Dr. A. James “Jim” Kerley became the fifth president of Gulf Coast Community College on June 1, 2007.

Dr. Kerley holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Educational Administration and Supervision of Higher Education from Florida State University; a Master of Arts in Teaching in History from The Citadel; and a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences/History/Secondary Education from Tennessee Tech University.

Dr. Kerley has 25 years of community college experience, with 18 of those years as a community college president. Since 1998, Dr. Kerley has served as president of what is now Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky. From 1989 to 1998, he was president of Hopkinsville Community College in Kentucky. From 1986 to 1989, Dr. Kerley served as academic dean at Madisonville Community College. From 1983 to 1986, he served as chair and professor of undergraduate teacher education program at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky.

Dr. Kerley community involvement includes: Board of Governors for Kentucky and West Virginia’s Alliance for STEM Project, Leadership Kentucky Board, Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce Board, Mayor’s Task Force for the 2010 Equestrian Games of Lexington, Mayor’s Hispanic Task Force for Lexington/Fayette County, Co-chair, United Way Board for the Bluegrass, Heart Board for the Bluegrass Region, Chair of Heart Walk, Kentucky Coalition of Community and Justice Board, American Red Cross Bluegrass Region Board, Hopkinsville Christian County Minority Affairs Board, Hopkinsville Christian County Economic Development Board, and the Association of United States Army Board

Over the past several years, Dr. Kerley has received the following honors Leadership Kentucky Recognition Service Award, Kentucky Humanitarian Award for Bluegrass Community and Technical College outreach into the region and community, Business of the Year Award for Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Winchester/Clark County for Lexington Community College, Special Recognition Award by University of Kentucky for African American Minority Outreach, Hispanic Outreach Award by Bluegrass Hispanic Association, Commander’s Award for Support of Soldiers and Family Members at Fort Campbell

Dr. Kerley’s wife, Dr. Donna Kerley, is also an educator and was an academic dean of Henry Clay High School in Lexington, Kentucky. They have been married 30 years and have two adult children.