

NEIL BURTON, PH.D.

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS, CCPD EXEC. DIRECTOR



Neil Burton serves as executive director of the Center for Career and Professional Development and was promoted to associate dean of students as a direct report to the Vice President for Student Affairs in September 2023. In his capacity, he is a member of the Student Affairs Leadership Team.

Burton became the director of the Clemson University Center for Career and Professional Development in 2011. By keeping his finger on the pulse of national and global job markets, and most importantly, the professional aspirations of today's college students, has equipped his team to deliver the best career services in the nation through helping Clemson students achieve their goals after graduation.

Under his leadership, the CCPD has been ranked No. 1 by The Princeton Review five of the last nine years for providing guidance and resources to Clemson's 28,000 students. Recent data from the First Destination Survey shows 97% of Clemson graduates are employed, planning to continue their education or are otherwise not seeking employment within six months of graduation.

Part of this success is due to the development of a platform of nine core competencies developed in-house to empower students to achieve their educational and professional goals. It also guides faculty and staff to help students realize their strengths and develop them in order to meet the demands of an evolving world. This work has informed similar efforts at universities all over the country, and the model itself has often been replicated at other schools.

Burton and his team also built Clemson's on-campus internship program from scratch. The University Professional Internship/Co-op Program (UPIC) annually provides over 900 paid, on-campus internships to undergraduate students. The program gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and gain hands-on experience in their fields of study or interest, working alongside Clemson faculty and staff. UPIC has been instrumental in creating a campus-wide culture that involves students in meaningful and relevant developmental experiences.

Burton is the recipient of the Fulbright International Education Administrators Award, the Provost's Award of Excellence for professional accomplishments, and the Talent Development Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. In 2015, he was recognized as Outstanding Professor by Clemson's undergraduate student government.

Burton started at Clemson in 1992, working in Student Financial Aid until 1998 when he became assistant director of Cooperative Education. He has taught a variety of courses as an adjunct instructor in four of Clemson's colleges, as well as at Southern Wesleyan University and Webster University.