

George J. Petersen is the Interim Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Construction and Provost Distinguished Professor at Clemson University. Prior to this appointment he served as the Founding Dean of the College of Education at Clemson. Petersen has held leadership positions as Dean of the Graduate School of Education at California Lutheran University, Chair of the Department of Graduate Studies at the California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and co-director of the University of California-Santa Barbara and Cal Poly Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. From 2000-2004, he also served as the Associate Director of University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) a national research and policy organization.

Petersen is the author or co-author of three books and 100+ book chapters, refereed articles, research papers, and commissioned reports. Much of his scholarly work has focused on the executive leadership of district superintendents and boards of education. Petersen's research has been widely published and is internationally recognized for its quality and impact.

In recognition of his scholarship and service, Petersen received numerous awards, including Clemson University's Ralph D. Elliott Award for Outstanding Service to Off-Campus, Distance and Continuing Education, the University of California-Santa Barbara's Gevirtz College of Education Distinguished Alumni Award, and the University of Missouri-Columbia's Excellence in Teaching Award. As a public-school teacher, he was the recipient of the Sallie Mae Outstanding Teaching Award, given to the top 100 teachers in the United States.

Petersen holds a Ph.D. and MA in Educational Policy, Organizations and Leadership, from the University of California Santa Barbara; and a BA in Philosophy (Cum Laude), from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy (1981)