Glenn F. McConnell is the 22nd president of the College of Charleston. He became president on July 1, 2014. A native of Charleston, S.C., and a distinguished alumnus of the College, McConnell served more than 30 years in the South Carolina Senate. He is regarded as one of the most respected, influential and effective leaders in state government.

He was first elected to the S.C. Senate in 1980 and went on to serve in several key leadership posts, including chairman of the Rules Committee and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In 2001, he was elected the first Republican president pro tempore of the S.C. Senate by a bipartisan vote. During his legislative career, McConnell earned a reputation as a skilled parliamentarian and mediator able to forge political compromises between opposing sides and bring people together.

As the incumbent Senate president pro tempore, he ascended to the office of lieutenant governor in March 2012 upon the vacancy of the office. Honoring his oath of office and upholding the State Constitution, McConnell took over the part-time position of lieutenant governor and head of the lieutenant governor's Office on Aging, where he was recognized both statewide and nationally for his work as the state's chief advocate for seniors and adults with disabilities.

McConnell also has long been a driving force behind economic development initiatives in South Carolina. On behalf of the State of South Carolina, he played a leading role in negotiations that resulted in the Boeing Company’s decision in 2010 to build a 787 Dreamliner assembly plant in North Charleston, S.C. In addition, he sought to advance technological innovation and entrepreneurship in South Carolina by supporting strategic partnerships between the private and public sectors.

As an undergraduate at the College, McConnell served as student body president and as a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He earned a bachelor’s in political science in 1969. He went on to earn a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1972 and was admitted to the S.C. Bar that same year. The McConnell Residence Hall on the College of Charleston's downtown campus is named in his honor.

At the College, President McConnell has launched numerous initiatives designed to improve accessibility, affordability and inclusivity on campus as well as streamline college operations and address future college developments and construction projects.