Welcome reception held for new Beacon College president

The official welcome reception was held Tuesday at Beacon Hall for the newly appointed president of the college, Dr. George Hagerty.

Hagerty brings more than 35 years of experience in higher education, business, government and the nonprofit world.

He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. His program concentration was in administration, planning and social policy with specialized study in finance and special education.

“Dr. Hagerty’s extensive leadership experience in higher education and government, as well as his record of achievement in the field of special education and belief in Beacon’s mission make him an ideal president for Beacon College,” said Eileen Marinakis, chairman of the Beacon College Board of Trustees.

“He is also an excellent addition to our Central Florida Community.”

Most recently Hagerty served as president of University Advisors International, Inc. from 2012 to the present, as provost and university professor at Hellenic American University in Athens, Greece, from 2009 to 2011; and as president of Franklin Pierce University from 1995 to 2009, where he holds the title, president emeritus.

His appointment was effective June 1. Hagerty spent his early and mid-career, spanning 15 years, devoted to serving the community of students with special learning needs.

Early in his career, he was selected as a post-doctoral Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

After completing his fellowship, he was appointed to a series of posts in the U.S. Department of Education, culminating in his appointment as the chief of compliance and enforcement in the Office of Special Education Programs.

He is the author of numerous scholarly articles, book chapters, and policy papers on a range of subjects relating to special education, governance and public finance.

He has been counsel to both Democratic and Republican administrations on issues related to education, state-federal relations and public finance.

Hagerty has been elected to numerous honorary societies and appointed to a variety of public commissions and panels at the national, regional and state levels.

He is the recipient of many awards and designations, among them the 1989 National Leadership Award from the National Council on Disabilities, Washington, D.C., and the 2009 Fitzwater Medal for Leadership in Public Communication.