

Benjamin J. Allen was named the ninth president of the University of Northern Iowa on April 28, 2006, and assumed his duties on June 5, 2006. He received his doctorate and master's degree in economics from the University of Illinois and his bachelor's of science degree in business economics from Indiana University

President Allen was the vice president for academic affairs and provost at Iowa State University and was responsible to the president for all aspects of the academic programs at Iowa State.

Before joining the faculty at Iowa State University in 1979, he taught at Washington State University and was a Brookings Economics Policy Fellow in the Office of Transportation Regulatory Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation. He served as chairman of the Department of Transportation and Logistics at Iowa State from 1984 to 1988. In 1988 he was named the first University Distinguished Professor in Business at Iowa State University.

From 1988 to 1990 he served as director of the Midwest Transportation Center, a research consortium consisting of Iowa State University and The University of Iowa.

He was the Visiting McKinley Professor of Economics and Public Utilities at the University of Illinois during the 1986-87 academic year and also held the Oren Harris Chair in Transportation at the University of Arkansas during the 1990-91 academic year.

He served as dean of the Iowa State University College of Business from 1994 to 2000 and in 2001-2002 he served as interim vice president for external affairs. President Allen also has been a consultant for various private corporations and public agencies.