



# Digital Fellows Program

## Directory of Fellowship Recipients



**Association of Chief Academic Officers**

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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Heidi Anderson

Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Texas A & M University-Kingsville

Heidi M. Anderson was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in September 2015. As provost, Dr. Anderson is responsible for all aspects of the university's academic mission, quality and delivery of education to undergraduate and graduate students, programmatic assessment, accreditation, faculty appointments, and academic support functions such as library, registrar and academic information technology.



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## Margaret Annunziata

Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Davidson County Community College

Margaret Annunziata currently serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Davidson County Community College, where she has led the College's Achieving the Dream, Completion by Design, and Frontier Set initiatives designed to promote student learning, persistence, and completion. She is completing her Ed.D. at Wingate University, with research focused on equitable outcomes and students' perceptions of equity in the community college setting.



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## Kelvin Bentley

Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Tarrant County Comm. College - Connect Campus

Kelvin Bentley has held different administrative positions overseeing online learning initiatives for different colleges and universities. Dr. Bentley currently serves as the Vice President of Academic Affairs for Tarrant County College's TCC Connect Campus, the sixth and newest campus that oversees online learning and an accelerated Weekend College.



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## **James Canniff**

Provost / Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
Bunker Hill Community College

James Canniff joined Bunker Hill Community College as provost in 2010. He has an Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts and degrees from Howard University and Catholic University. Formerly, Dr. Canniff served in senior administrative community college positions in New York State. Dr. Canniff, a Professor Emeritus, has many accolades, including the John T. Mather Hospital's "Theodore Roosevelt Award" for volunteerism as a Board Member.



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## **Karen Carey**

Provost  
University of Alaska, Southeast

Karen Carey is the Provost at the University of Alaska Southeast. She previously served as Dean of Arts and Sciences at CSU Channel Islands, and was a faculty member and Dean of Graduate Studies at CSU Fresno. Carey received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Cincinnati.



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## **Diane Z. Chase**

Executive Vice President and Provost  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Diane Z. Chase, Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology (Maya archaeology) at the University of Pennsylvania. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, authoring over 130 publications, spearheads UNLV's Top Tier academic initiatives. Dr. Chase's responsibilities include the academic success of over 29,700 UNLV students



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Charles M. Cook

Provost & Executive Vice President  
Austin Community College

Charles M. Cook joined Austin Community College as Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs on August 1, 2014. As the chief academic officer, he guides and oversees all programs relating to instruction and student services. Previously, Dr. Cook oversaw academic matters for Houston Community College and also worked for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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## Joe Delap

Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Athens State University

Joe Delap is in his fifteenth year of full-time executive service in Academic Affairs, currently serving as Provost and tenured Professor at Athens State University, Alabama's premier destination for transfer students seeking the highest quality baccalaureate and master's education and cutting-edge learning, at the most affordable cost.

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## Carol Erting

Provost  
Gallaudet University

Carol J. Erting is the Provost at Gallaudet University. During her career at Gallaudet, she has served as Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Continuing Studies and International Programs, Dean of the Graduate School and Professional Programs, Chair of the Education Department, and has also been a faculty member in three different departments.

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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## **Junius Gonzales**

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of North Carolina System

Junius J. Gonzales, M.D., M.B.A., joined the University of North Carolina system – comprised of 17 institutions – in 2015 from the University of Texas at El Paso where he was provost. A psychiatrist and health services researcher by training, and a first generation college graduate, his non-traditional career path has taken him through the National Institutes of Health, academic medical centers, and a for-profit consulting firm before entering public higher education at the University of South Florida.



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## **Jeffrey Hecker**

Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs  
University of Maine

Jeffrey Hecker, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Maine, is also a Professor of Clinical Psychology. His research and teaching interests include anxiety disorders, risk assessment, and professional ethics. He served as Chair of the Department of Psychology and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. As Provost, his priorities have been enrollment, strategic resource allocation, and student success.



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## **Beth Ingram**

Provost  
North Dakota State University

Beth Ingram serves as Provost and Professor of Economics at North Dakota State University, with prior administrative and academic positions at the University of Iowa and Cornell University. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Ingram's research interests and publications have focused on Macroeconomics, Labor Economics and Econometrics.



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Connie Johnson

Provost/CAO  
Colorado Technical University

Connie Johnson is Colorado Technical University's CAO and provost and leads online and campus degree programs with a focus on adult students and open enrollment higher education. She has a Doctorate of Education and MBA from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Science with honors from Florida State University.



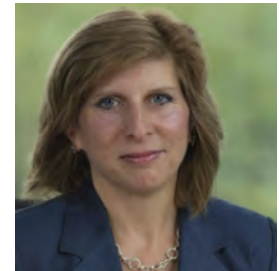
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## Kathy Johnson

Exec. Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs (CAO)  
Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ.-Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Kathy Johnson serves as Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), a core campus of Indiana University and the state's urban research and academic health sciences campus. She is a professor of psychology and completed her doctoral work at Emory University.



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## Bradley Lane

Vice President, Instruction  
Seattle Central College

Bradley Lane serves as Vice President for Instruction at Seattle Central College in Seattle, Washington. He holds a master's degree in Teaching, Learning, and Diversity from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in Gender Studies from Indiana University. Dr. Lane has focused his career on expanding educational access and advancing educational equity for students through developmental education redesign, advocacy for liberal arts, and industry partnerships in allied health and information technology.



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Vern Linquist

Dean of the Faculty & Chief Academic Officer  
Richard Bland College of William & Mary

Vern Lindquist is Dean of Faculty & CAO of Richard Bland College of William & Mary. His experience with digital technology projects includes predictive analytics, OERs, and adaptive learning technologies. Lindquist, who earned his PhD in English from Indiana University, has 25 years of experience in higher education.



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## Joan Lorden

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Joan F. Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UNC Charlotte, an urban research university of 29,090 students, provides leadership for the University's research, education, and community engagement. She has promoted interdisciplinary educational research programs, expanded graduate degrees, and fostered programs to increase degree completion and campus diversity.



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## Barbara Lyman

Interim President (and CAO)  
Shippensburg University

Barbara G. Lyman, currently serving as interim president, is in her tenth year as Shippensburg University's chief academic officer. In leadership roles in three public comprehensive universities, she has worked extensively in strategic planning, budgeting, and assessment as well as academic program development, faculty affairs, and student success initiatives.



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## **Pedro Matrinez**

Provost / Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Central State University

Pedro L. Martinez has enjoyed a successful career in academia for more than 35 years, including 17 years of progressively responsible administrative experience. Dr. Martinez is presently serving as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Central State University, a land-grant designated institution.

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## **Peter Nwosu**

Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Clark Atlanta University

Peter O. Nwosu, American Council on Education Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, is provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Nwosu brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education to his role, overseeing the strategic and operational initiatives of four academic schools, as well as enrollment services, student affairs, research and sponsored programs, cancer center, center for undergraduate research, and the radio station, among other responsibilities.

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## **Gregory Ochoa**

Dean, Academic Affairs & CAO  
Potomac State College of West Virginia University

Dr. Gregory Ochoa currently serves Potomac State College, WVU as the Dean of Academic Affairs and has served in numerous academic leadership roles. Dr. Ochoa earned a Bachelors in Psychology from Creighton University, a Masters in Psychology from Marshall University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Duquesne University.

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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Patricia Rogers

Provost & Senior VP, Academic Affairs  
Winona State University

Patricia L. Rogers is currently the Provost & VPAA at Winona State University. Her doctoral preparation includes both Art Education and Instructional Systems and Technology from the University of Minnesota. She served 8 years as a Dean and one year as System Director for Instructional Technology at the Minnesota State Office. She is a Getty Fellow (Getty Center for Arts in Education) and a Fulbright Scholar (2000-2001), designing distance-learning programs (Iceland University of Education), and was awarded the first annual Minnesota Online Council's Pioneer Award for leadership in online teaching.

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## Ralph Rogers

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Nova Southeastern University

Ralph V. Rogers has served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of Nova Southeastern University since 2013. Dr. Rogers' higher education career spans 38 years over eight different universities and community colleges leading, developing, implementing and teaching innovative courses and programs in multiple modalities including synchronous satellite and web broadcasts, tape delayed, on-line, and hybrid.

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## Jean Shankweiler

Vice President, Academic Affairs  
El Camino College

Jean Shankweiler earned her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at The College of Mt. St. Joseph and her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from New Mexico State University. After moving to sunny Southern California, she began her career at El Camino College, first teaching Chemistry, then as Dean of Natural Sciences, and finally as the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Andrew Shean

Chief Academic Learning Officer  
Bridgepoint Education

Andrew Shean is the Chief Academic Learning Officer for Bridgepoint Education, where he leads the development of new program design, the strategic direction for products, curriculum operations, instructional design, library, and writing center. He also supports efforts to centralize resources across both Bridgepoint universities in collaboration with academic leaders.



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## Gail M. Simmons

Provost and Sr. Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Hofstra University

Gail M. Simmons serves as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Hofstra University. She previously served as Provost at Manhattanville College and as a dean for STEM programs at two CUNY campuses and at The College of New Jersey. She has Ph.D. in Genetics from UC Davis, and a B.S. from the University of Pittsburgh.



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## Molly Smith

Provost  
St. Martin's University

Molly Smith serves as Provost and VP for Academic Affairs at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA, a role she began in 2013. She is also Professor of English. Dr. Smith was born in Chennai (India) and earned her undergraduate degree in English from Ethiraj College and her M.A. in English from Madras Christian College, both part of the University of Madras. She earned her Ph.D. from Auburn University.



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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## Vincent Solis

Vice President for Instruction and Student Services  
Laredo Community College

Vincent Solis serves as the Vice President for Instruction & Student Services at Laredo Community College. During his tenure he has had the privilege of providing leadership for essential campus operations such as instruction, student services, enrollment, outreach, athletics, dual enrollment, auxiliary functions, special projects, and student success programs.

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## Renva Watterson

Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Georgia Highlands College

Renva Watterson serves as Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Georgia Highlands College, a State College in the University System of Georgia. Her current work includes the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for academic advisement, the Gateway to Completion initiative of redesigning five high enrollment/high D-W-F grades courses, and Complete College Georgia aimed at retention, progression, and graduation.

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## Loredana (Lori) Werth

Provost  
University of Pikeville

Lori Werth is the Provost at University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky. As a former faculty member, Department Chair, and Vice President for Enrollment Management, Dr. Werth works to empower first-generation students. Lori has been married for 20 years to her husband Eric and is mother to three daughters.

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# DIGITAL FELLOWS

## A. Dale Whittaker

Provost and Executive Vice President  
University of Central Florida

A. Dale Whittaker is the Provost and Executive Vice President at the University of Central Florida, where he serves as the second-highest ranking officer and provides academic leadership for 13 colleges, multiple campuses, and research centers and institutes. Before coming to UCF in Fall 2014, Dr. Whittaker served in multiple faculty and leadership positions at Purdue and Texas A&M universities.

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## Richard Woodfield, Jr.

Provost & Chief Academic Officer  
Zane State College

Richard Woodfield serves as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Zane State College, where he has held various positions as a faculty member, department chair, dean, and associate vice president. He holds a B.S. and M.S. from SUNY Stony Brook and a D.M. in Community College Policy and Administration from University of Maryland University College.

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## PROJECT PERSONNEL

### **Laura Niesen de Abruna**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
York College of Pennsylvania

Laura Niesen de Abruna is Immediate Past President and Board Member of ACAO. She is the PI on the Digital Fellows Grant supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at York College of Pennsylvania as well as Professor of English. Dr. Niesen de Abruna has been a CAO for the past 13 years.



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### **Kenneth C. Green**

Director, ACAO Digital Fellows Project  
Director, The Campus Computing Project

Casey Green is the founding director of The Campus Computing Project, the largest continuing study of IT planning and policy issues in American higher education. He also serves as the director of the ACAO Digital Fellows Project and as moderator of *TO A DEGREE*, the postsecondary success podcast of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Green's 2002 EDUCAUSE Leadership Award cited his "prominence in the arena of national and international technology agendas, and the linking of higher education to those agendas."



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### **Rebecca Hatkoff**

Project Associate, ACAO Digital Fellows Project  
Adjunct Faculty, Claremont Graduate University

Rebecca Hatkoff is an adjunct professor and teacher educator at Claremont Graduate University. Her research focuses on social-class based disparities in public schools, highly effective teachers of vulnerable student populations, and effective pedagogy. She also counsels recent immigrants navigating K-12 public schools and transitions to college.



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## GATES FOUNDATION PROGRAM OFFICER

**Jim Ptaszynski**  
Senior Fellow, Postsecondary Success  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Jim Ptaszynski is the Senior Fellow for Postsecondary Success at the Gates Foundation where he helps design grants that reduce or eliminate barriers to the success of new majority students. Prior to the Foundation, Jim spent almost 20 years at Microsoft, mostly, in higher education strategy. His academic appointments include service as an Associate Dean, Graduate School of Business, Wake Forest University.



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