

BIO

Dr. Denise King



Dr. Denise King is an accomplished academic leader with a diverse educational and administrative background. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Drama and Humanities from Stanford University, where her dissertation focused on "Operatic Appropriations: Transformations in Stage Direction in Opera in the Twentieth Century." Coupled with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Theater Studies from Emory University, Dr. King has built a career that spans various roles in higher education. Most recently, she served as the Provost for Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky, where she oversaw academic and technical programs, workforce development, student services, a performing arts center, and a science center with active planetarium.

Dr. King is best known for her transformative work to enhance student engagement and success, such as implementing Guided Pathways reforms at Cleveland State in Tennessee, which significantly improved graduation rates and earned state recognition. She has also directed over 200 theatrical productions, showcasing her and her dedication to nurturing talent in students and community members alike. A lifelong musician, she currently serves as organist for her church and leads music worship for ecumenical services at the local federal penitentiary.

Denise and her husband Pat currently live in eastern Kentucky from where they cheer on their daughters, one completing a doctoral program in medieval literature at UC Santa Barbara and the other who just entered a master's program in opera performance at University of Mississippi.

Denise King Ph.D.

Senior Educational Leader

Accomplished educational leader with extensive experience in strategic academic and student affairs management, demonstrating a strong track record of driving institutional growth, enhancing program effectiveness, and managing multimillion-dollar budgets. Proven expertise in overseeing diverse educational initiatives, including grant-funded programs and performing arts centers. Adept at implementing reforms and strategic plans to boost enrollment, improve student success, and strengthen community partnerships. Recognized for exceptional leadership in navigating budgetary challenges, securing significant funding, and advancing institutional goals.

Areas of Expertise

- Strategic Leadership
- Academic Programs Management
- Student Services Oversight
- Budget Management
- Grant Administration
- Enrollment Growth
- Program Expansion
- Curriculum Development
- Faculty Supervision
- Institutional Planning
- NSF Grant
- SACSCOC Accreditation
- Guided Pathways
- Workforce Training
- Capital Campaigns

Notable Achievements

BSCTC (Big Sandy Community and Technical College)

- Achieved a 22% increase in overall enrollment from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022, marking the first growth in six years.
- Boosted underrepresented minority student enrollment by 40% and dual credit student enrollment by 125%, maintaining these gains into subsequent terms.
- Enhanced outreach to prisons, jails, and addiction recovery institutions, resulting in a significant increase in GED preparation and job-seeking skills completions.
- Upgraded the Ready to Work program with renovated facilities and new personnel to support the neediest students in the region.
- Implemented cost-saving measures to balance the 2022-23 operating budget after pandemic-related revenue losses.
- Addressed a 2M budget deficit through revamped budget planning and expense reduction.
- Served as Acting President for four months in 2022, managing institutional operations and strategic initiatives until interim president was appointed.
- Assisted in the design and implementation of the Strategic Planning process, developed progress reporting systems, and supported the creation of annual priorities aligned with the college's Strategic Plan and Diversity Plan.
- Opened the East Kentucky Oral Health Center, a state-of-the-art training facility and clinic, enhancing educational opportunities in dental hygiene and community dental health.
- Secured funding from Delta Dental, Appalachian Regional Commission, and the American Dental Association.
- Guided the Mountain Arts Center through pandemic closures, investing in a recording studio and launching the Appalachian Arts and Entertainment Awards (APPYS). APPYS received the KCTCS award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in 2022.
- Supported the Workforce Solutions Division in delivering over \$806,000 in TRAINS projects for FY22 and over \$1 M for FY23.
- Developed significant partnerships, including specialized welding training with Appalachian Tank and work-learn programs with Frontier Behavioral Health.
- Suspended inactive programs and introduced new certificates and degrees, including Community Dental Health, Cybersecurity, and Fire Science, to address regional workforce needs and enhance employment opportunities.
- Successfully completed SACSCOC Monitoring Report, submitted substantive change prospectuses for new off-campus sites, and led the completion of the fifth-year Interim Report.

CLSCC (Cleveland State Community College)

- Named the inaugural College of the Year by the Tennessee Board of Regents in 2019 for outstanding student achievement and program expansion.
- Implemented Guided Pathways reforms, including mandatory advising and Career Communities, resulting in improved student success, increased graduation rates by 41%, and higher ratings in student engagement surveys.

- Streamlined workforce training delivery and established new training sites, increasing net non-credit revenue by 75% and serving clients such as Wacker and DENSO.
- Secured over \$3 M in grants and private funding for career technical program rebuilding, including new facilities and program expansions in Welding and Mechatronics.
- Played a key role in a capital campaign that raised \$2.5 M to secure \$25 M in state funds for the college's first new building in 40 years.
- Created a new Tutoring Center and Center for Dynamic Instruction.
- Expanded a Bellwether Award-winning math remediation program to area high schools and developed a comprehensive Honors program.
- Designed and implemented the Early College program in collaboration with local school districts, meeting the needs of students across the service area.
- Supported the development and execution of the college's first comprehensive Annual Campaign, contributing to key fundraising events and becoming inaugural member of the Blue and White Society.

Career Experience

Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Prestonsburg Kentucky
Provost/Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer

2023 – 2024

Provided strategic leadership for all academic programs and student services, shaping the overall direction and development of college offerings. Acted as the designated administrator in the absence of the president, ensuring continuity of leadership and decision-making.

- Managed operational budget exceeding \$20.5M, along with overseeing a \$1.8M Department of Education grant, a \$2.2M Title III grant, and a \$300K NSF (National Science Foundation) grant.
- Directed grant-funded programs, including Adult Education, Ready to Work, and Pipeline to Healthcare, ensuring effective implementation and compliance with funding requirements.

Provost/Chief Academic Officer

2020 – 2023

Led and directed all academic programs, student services, and workforce and economic development initiatives for the college. Served as the designated administrator in the president's absence, maintaining continuity of leadership and decision-making.

- Oversaw the Mountain Arts Center performing arts venue and the East Kentucky Science Center and Varia Planetarium, ensuring the effective management and integration with college goals.
- Managed operational budget exceeding \$30.5M, including a \$2.2M Title III grant and a \$300K NSF (National Science Foundation) grant, among other funding sources.

Cleveland State Community College, Cleveland, Tennessee
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

2012 – 2019

Administered and oversaw all instructional and workforce development programs, including policies, budget management, and personnel. Acted as the primary liaison between faculty and administration, ensuring effective communication and collaboration.

- Managed budget lines exceeding \$11.3M, including a \$4M Title III grant and other funding sources.

Additional Experience

Dean, Arts and Humanities Division, St Charles Community College, Cottleville, Missouri 2009-2012
 Campus Director, San Juan Center, Skagit Valley College, Friday Harbor, Washington 2006-2009
 Dean, Social Sciences and Humanities Division, Olympic College, Bremerton, Washington 2003-2005
 Tenured Faculty and Department Chair, Theatre Arts and Speech, Olympic College, Bremerton, Washington 1995-2003

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Drama and Humanities, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
 Dissertation: "Operatic Appropriations: Transformations in Stage Direction in Opera in the Twentieth Century"

Bachelor of Arts in Music and Theatre Studies (Double Major), Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Teaching Experience

Tenured Faculty, Theatre Arts & Speech, Olympic College, Bremerton, Washington 1995-2005
Sabbatical Replacement Faculty, Theatre Arts, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, California 1994
Part-time Instructor, Theatre, Humanities, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California 1988-1992
Part-time Instructor, Adult & Senior Education, Foothill College, Mountain View, California 1988-1991

College Service

Chair, Academic Council for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)
Council of Chief Academic Officers, Council on Post-Secondary Education: KCTCS Representative, 2022 to 2024
SACSCOC Off-Site Review Committees: Member, 2021 to present
KCTCS Guided Pathways Workgroup: Chair 2020-2022, Member 2020 to 2024
KCTCS Efficiency Study (Huron), Space Utilization Sub-committee: 2022 to 2023
AACC (American Association of Community Colleges) Commission on Structured Pathways: Member, 2019 to 2022

More Details available upon request

Presentations

Lessons in Leadership, 4th Annual Leading Ladies Regional Leadership Conference, Prestonsburg, KY, April 2023
Partnerships in Practice: Kentucky Advising Academy, February 2023
Reach for the Stars: Rotary Empowering Girls Event, Pikeville, KY, April 2022
Guided Pathways Implementation, Oregon State Pathways Institute, May 2021
Integrating Developmental Education Reforms and Guided Pathways: Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness Annual Conference, November 2019

More Details available upon request

Community Service

Floyd County Homeless Shelter: Board of Directors, 2024 – Present
Revisioning Criminal Justice Taskforce – Floyd County: Member, 2021 – Present
Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, Board member, 2022-present
Mountain Arts Center: Board of Directors, 2021 – 2024
Rotary Club of Pikeville: Member, 2020 – 2024

More Details available upon request

Leadership Development

Leading Ladies Regional Leadership Conference: Prestonsburg, KY, April 2023
Big Sandy Women’s Business Symposium: Paintsville, KY, February 2023
Workforce Leadership Summit: Prestonsburg, KY, September 2022

More Details available upon request