



Innovation Design Center Team



Asquith “Sean” Armstrong, Dean of Washington University in St. Louis - Continuing & Professional Studies (CAPS), will complete the transformation of the university's professional and continuing education division, a school with a greater focus on accessible pathways for economic mobility and career advancement for residents of the St. Louis region. In 2023, Mr. Armstrong set a new vision and mission for the school with a Strategic Plan that focuses on the empowerment of modern learners —those balancing personal and professional responsibilities with their education

goals. As a native New Yorker and former Florida resident, Mr. Armstrong's own non-traditional student experience is the cornerstone of his ability to create agility and flexibility in higher education. The transformation of CAPS will ensure student success of diverse and underrepresented communities.



Kelvin Bentley has more than 25 years of experience serving in various roles as a faculty member, administrator, and consultant within the field of higher education supporting online learning and other types of academic innovation initiatives that have included piloting and scaling the use of online tutoring and proctoring in support of online learning programs. Mr. Bentley currently serves as the University of Texas System's first project manager for Texas Credentials for the Future, a new initiative designed to grow and scale access to technical skills for

students and alumni across 14 universities and health research institutions. He engages in strategic planning and collaboration with project leads across the University of Texas System to further their microcredentialing efforts. In addition, Mr. Bentley manages partnerships with companies like Google and Coursera, and manages a \$1.5 million grant from the Strada Education Foundation.



Susan Elrod is chancellor at Indiana University South Bend. She served as a faculty member and campus leader, assistant chair, associate dean, and director of a STEM education center at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at California State University, Fresno; and as interim provost at California State University, Chico. She then served as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. She is also a co-founder of CRUSE, the Coalition for Reform in Undergraduate STEM

Education, a consortium focused on fostering national collaborations for student success in STEM. Dr. Elrod holds a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of California, Davis and an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences from California State University, Chico.



Robert Griffiths is the Assistant Vice Provost of Online Learning and Innovation for Ohio State Online. Beyond directing online education curriculum design and support efforts for Ohio State, he oversees state authorization, as well as for-credit, non-degree student services. Finally, he drives institutional efforts to coordinate, elevate, and advance continuing education offerings to support the university's workforce development efforts. He has co-authored Ohio State's alternative credentials framework and strategy. Prior to his current role, he has also directed the

Learning Technology and Student Success team which designed and delivered the tools, spaces and programs to support Ohio State's 21st century education. Dr. Griffiths earned his bachelor's degree in communication from Denison University and his master's and doctorate degrees in communication from Ohio State University.



Tyson Heath serves as the Director of Academic Standards and policies at Western Governors University (WGU), where he leads the Credential Integrity, Academic Policy, and Academic Records teams. Before his current role, Mr. Heath served the university as the Senior Manager for University Compliance and Title IX. In his current position, he is responsible for collaborating across WGU to help ensure and strengthen its programming portfolio's integrity and relevance by establishing the university's standards, practices, and policies around skills, competencies, assessments, pathways, and credentials. In addition, Mr. Heath is passionate about the intersections of higher education policy, accreditation, and reform for creating more meaningful pathways to opportunity for every learner.



Kathryn (Kitty) Regjo is the Vice President of Academic Affairs for Colorado Mountain College's 11-campus system. Kathryn has spent nearly 25 years in education, previously serving as President of Lincoln College of New England, Regional Vice President for the Princeton Review, and Vice President and Campus Dean of Colorado Mountain College's Vail Valley campus. During her tenure at Colorado Mountain College, Dr. Regjo has been refining the college's learning outcomes, establishing the college as a Guided Pathway institution, navigating curriculum and program development into stackable credentials, along with embedding experiential and equity-based teaching practices through the college. Dr. Regjo holds a doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Denver and a bachelor of arts degree in international business and German from Adrian College.



Ian R. Roark serves as the Vice Chancellor of Workforce Development & Innovation for Pima Community College. He also oversees innovation for the college district, including new models such as micro-pathways, apprenticeships, and Baccalaureate degrees. Dr. Roark serves on several boards and committees at the local, state, and national levels. He was named to the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence for 2019-2020, received the Workforce Development Practitioner of the Year Award from the Arizona Association for Economic Development in 2019, named Steering Committee Lead for Arizona's Reskilling & Recovery Network Team in 2020, named to the New America New Models for Career Preparation Advisory Committee in 2021, was selected as a Designer in Residence by the Education Design Lab for 2021-2022 and was named to the New America Workforce Transformation Advisory Committee in 2023.



Matthew Valdez is the librarian for the Learn & Work Ecosystem Library. Mr. Valdez is an academic librarian and higher education professional with nearly twenty years of experience with institutions at the community college, state college, and private university levels. Mr. Valdez previously served as a Senior Online Librarian for the American Public University System, a Reference and Instruction Librarian and Archivist for the Pikes Peak State College system, and a Technology Specialist for the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. He has a BS from Colorado State University - Pueblo, a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Denver, and is a member of the Association for Information Science and Technology. His work has focused on information literacy, digital accessibility, distance learning, Open Educational Resources, and educational technology.