

→ Leadership

American College of Education's dedication to service and student success begins at the top. ACE's board of trustees, executive cabinet and advisory boards in the verticals of nursing, healthcare and business include both luminaries and behind-the-scenes servant leaders.



SHAWNTEL LANDRY, MBA, Ed.D.

President

Dr. Shawntel Landry joined American College of Education in 2009 and has served as president since 2013, overseeing an era of record growth and exceptional performance by the institution across all areas of the college.

Since 2013, ACE's active student population has grown by nearly 140%, with more than 6,800 active students and more than 22,000 alumni as of August, 2020. Under Dr. Landry's leadership, ACE has become the No. 4 conferrer of M.Ed. degrees in the country, while expanding program offerings in education, healthcare, nursing, business, and leadership. ACE also has significantly grown its doctoral and education specialist degrees, while becoming an early adopter of micro-credential offerings to supplement certificates and full degrees.

An advocate for student-first approaches to scalable operations and programming, Dr. Landry developed the college's first yearly Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) report, led the college through development of a new mission, vision, and strategic plan, and guided the college to become the first company in Indiana that is both a Certified B-Corp and a Benefit Corporation.

She has reorganized all departments for operational efficiency, growing the staff and faculty while increasing operating margins and revenue per employee. Currently, American College of Education has five state-level non-profit partnerships, one national non-profit partnership, more than 1,500 academic or education partnerships, and more than 140 partners in the healthcare field. Together, these partnerships help ACE reach more than 2 million professionals around the country. Under Dr. Landry's leadership, American College of Education also has won national and state awards for workplace flexibility and employee satisfaction, while running a 350+ employee organization, with faculty and staff located throughout the country.

Prior to initially joining ACE in 2009 as a senior vice president, Dr. Landry worked in K-12 classrooms and K-8 curriculum development, later serving as a curriculum writer, editor, and director for Voyager Learning. She worked directly with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on research about national and international mathematics standards and the impact to U.S. test scores while she was working at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Landry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Gifted Education with a minor in Instructional Technology from University of Louisiana-Lafayette. In addition, she holds a Master of Business Administration and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Texas Christian University. She has completed post-graduate coursework at Southern Methodist University and University of Connecticut, as well as executive leadership professional development at Harvard University and The Wharton School. She has lifetime teaching certifications in elementary education and gifted education in Louisiana and Texas.



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DON McADAMS, Ph.D.

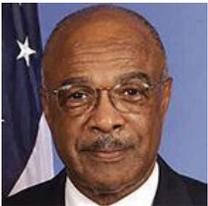
Chairman

Chairman and Founder, Center for the Reform of School Systems

Dr. McAdams founded the Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS), a not-for-profit Texas corporation, which provides governance training and advisory services for urban school boards. He is a nationally recognized authority on school district governance and is a frequent speaker and widely published author on school reform in America. Dr. McAdams served for 12 years as a member of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education, serving twice as board president.

Teachers College Press published his first book, *Fighting to Save Our Urban Schools... and Winning! Lessons from Houston* in 2000 and his second book, *What School Boards Can Do: Reform Governance for Urban Schools* in January 2006. His latest book, co-authored by Dan Katzir, *The Redesign of Urban School Districts: Case Studies in Urban School Governance, 1990-2011*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2013.

Dr. McAdams earned his B.A. from Columbia Union College in Maryland and his M.A. and PhD from Duke University. Dr. McAdams has been a research professor at the University of Houston; President of McAdams, Faillace & Associates, Inc; Executive Vice President of the American Productivity and Quality Center; and President of the Texas Independent College Fund. From 1975-1984, he was President of Southwestern Adventist College. Earlier, he was associate professor of history and acting chairman of the Department of History at Andrews University.



ROD PAIGE, Ed.D.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Dr. Rod Paige earned his B.S. from Jackson State University and his M.A. and Ed.D. from Indiana University. During his tenure as U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Paige was a stalwart supporter of improving the way that students learn on all levels and setting standards of achievement. Dr. Paige made history by becoming the first school superintendent to be named Secretary of Education.

While serving as superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh-largest school district in the U.S., he was honored as National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Paige served for a decade as dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University (TSU) in Houston, Texas, where he worked to ensure that future educators receive the training and expertise necessary to succeed in the classroom. He also established the University's Center for Excellence in Urban Education, a research facility that concentrates on issues related to instruction and management in urban school systems. Dr. Paige speaks frequently to educators across the country and emphasizes, "Civilizations rise and fall depending on the quality of education."



DEBORAH JEWELL-SHERMAN, Ed.D.

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, co-directed Harvard's Urban Superintendent Program and now guides students in the University's Doctor of Education Leadership program.

Prior to joining Harvard, Dr. Jewell-Sherman worked with the Richmond, Virginia, public schools, serving as superintendent from 2002-2008. Under her leadership the Richmond Public Schools became recognized nationally as a "Flagship" district. Previously, she served as an elementary school principal and taught English, mathematics, and computer science. Dr. Jewell-Sherman has both an Ed.D. and an M.A. from Harvard, both in Administration, Planning and Social Policy, an M.A. from Kean College in Educational Administration, and a B.S. from New York University in Elementary Education.



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DEBORAH NUGENT

Former Chief Financial Officer, Best Merchant Partners

Deborah Nugent served as a finance executive for more than 20 years. She retired from her role as chief financial officer of Best Merchant Partners in 2014, where she also served in other executive operational roles across several of its portfolio companies.

Prior to her 12-year tenure at Best Merchant Partners, Ms. Nugent held executive management positions throughout a variety of companies and organizations, including South Central Mortgage, Inc., Mothers Against Drunk Driving, USF&G Capital Investors, Inc., and various real estate development companies. Her financial expertise spans both domestic and international markets.

Ms. Nugent began her career in public accounting with PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Grant Thornton LLP as a CPA. In addition to her leadership in business and finance, Ms. Nugent has more than 10 years of board experience across higher education and not-for-profit institutions in the United States and Latin America. Ms. Nugent has a degree in accounting from the University of Texas at Austin.



JERI NOWAKOWSKI, Ed.D.

President Emeritus, American College of Education

An experienced executive for online institutions, Jeri Nowakowski is an educational consultant, specializing in helping corporations and higher education institutions develop and facilitate transitions to an online environment.

Dr. Nowakowski began her career as an educator, first in high school then as an associate professor at Northern Illinois University. While executive director of the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, she secured over \$50 million in contracts and pioneered the use of technology to deliver and evaluate training and curriculum. Dr. Nowakowski later served as executive vice president of curriculum development and evaluation at Voyager Expanded Learning.

In 2008, Dr. Nowakowski joined American College of Education, first as provost and then as president. Under her leadership, ACE transitioned to a fully online program, added a substantial number of new programs, and secured accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. In 2011, she became executive vice president of Academic Partnerships.

Dr. Nowakowski earned her bachelor's and master's from Arizona State University. She holds an Ed.D. in educational evaluation and research from Western Michigan University, and was a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University.



BILL BARKE

Bill Barke joined the ACE board in 2021, having spent his career almost exclusively in the higher education product and service business segments. He currently is active in advising and mentorship, where his focus is on the transformative effect of technology in providing increased access to adult learners.

His senior executive roles have included president of textbook publisher Allyn and Bacon, CEO of the Addison Wesley Higher Ed Group, Chairman of Pearson Canada and Chairman of Pearson's North American Higher Education Group, where he helped drive the shift from print to digital and products to services. His current advisory and mentorship roles in higher education include StudyPortals, Rethink Education, Enabling Insights, Mentor Collective and Open Scholar. He also serves on the board of Higher Educational International (HEI), an international higher education services management company, and was a board member at Academic Partnerships for three years.



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THOMAS B. EVANS

American College of Education Co-Founder

Thomas B. Evans is the founder and managing partner of Dallas-based Skyline Merchant Partners, LLC. His firm invests in and develops high-growth, high-impact businesses in the education industry.

Mr. Evans also co-founded American College of Education and helped develop the strategy, assemble the initial leadership team, and fund and oversee the business.

Prior to founding Skyline, Mr. Evans was a partner with Best Associates, where he had primary responsibility for raising capital and maintaining investor relationships, establishing university partnerships, and evaluating and implementing investments in educational institutions. He was previously chief financial officer of Voyager Expanded Learning and also was a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Evans is a board member and executive chairman of ACE's parent company, ACE PBC LLC.

He also was a founding board member of Academic Partnerships and Illumno Holdings, Ltd. and served on the Executive Advisory Board of the College of Business at Ohio University. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Ohio State University and an undergraduate degree in business from Ohio University.

ACE Faculty and Staff

ACE's more than 300 faculty and staff live and work throughout the country. More than 70 employees are based out of ACE's headquarters site of Indianapolis. For the last five years, ACE has been ranked one of the Best Places to Work in Indiana by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. ACE is committed to cultivating a positive, balanced and dynamic environment in which employees can work and grow. Such an environment is made possible by progressive employee benefits, including a flexible remote-work policy, paid parental leave, civic hours and tuition assistance.

