

Arkansas – Casey Sacks, Ph.D.

Casey K. Sacks became the Vice Chancellor for the West Virginia Community and Technical College System in 2016. Her primary roles include providing vision and leadership for statewide initiatives in the areas of policy support, workforce development, technology innovation, program recruitment and retention, grant management, and the delivery of community and technical college education.

Prior to her work in West Virginia, Sacks spent eight years at the Colorado Community College System in Academic Affairs. She provided key leadership for system-wide developmental education policy reform in Colorado. Under her leadership, Colorado eliminated long, multi-course sequences in reading, English, and math. Sacks completed her Ph.D. in higher education administration at Bowling Green State University in Ohio specializing in institutional planning. She is an active Rotarian, avid equestrian, and travel enthusiast.



Michigan & Massachusetts – Richard Kazis

Richard Kazis is an active consultant for education and workforce initiatives with various national organizations and foundations, including the Charles A. Dana Center, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC), the Brookings Institution, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He also serves as the Board Chair and Interim President of The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS).

Until 2014, Richard Kazis was Senior Vice President of Jobs for the Future (JFF). At JFF, Mr. Kazis led the development and implementation of policy and advocacy activities in support of innovative solutions to educational and economic challenges facing low-income youth and adults. Further, he oversaw JFF's Washington policy office and the organization's varied initiatives on community college student success.

He has taught at an alternative high school, helped organize and staff workforce enterprises, and supervised a Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

Mr. Kazis has co-authored a book on environmental and labor politics and edited two others on education and workforce issues. He has written extensively for professional and research organizations on topics such as improving low-income community college students' performance and outcomes, college and career readiness approaches for struggling students, low-wage worker advancement strategies, and the role of labor market intermediaries in workforce development.

Richard Kazis graduated from both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Missouri – Linda Welsh, Ph.D.

Linda Welsh serves as the regional coordinator for the Dana Center’s Houston/Southeast Texas Scaling Mathematics Pathways initiative. Prior to this, she was Dean of Graduate Students and Academic Support for the Roueche Graduate Center’s Community College Leadership Program at National American University (NAU). She is an adjunct for NAU, chairing and serving on several dissertation committees.

Previously, she was a faculty member and Department Chair for Child Development for the Austin Community College District (ACC), where she led the department through national accreditation. Dr. Welsh served as President for the ACC Faculty Senate and was active in a variety of college-wide councils and committees, including the Administrative Services Council and Academic and Campus Affairs Council. Prior to that, Dr. Welsh was the Early Childhood Coordinator for the City of Austin where she facilitated community-wide planning and program development for the early childhood system of Austin.

Dr. Welsh serves as the Vice President of the Board for the local Head Start agency, Child Incorporated. She also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors for Together4Children and is engaged in collective philanthropy through her work with Impact Austin.

Dr. Welsh has a PhD in Educational Administration with a concentration in Community College Leadership from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has a Certificate from the Graduate Portfolio Program in Non-Profit Studies from the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the University of Texas at Austin.



Oklahoma – Sandy Gilpin

Sandy Gilpin is currently the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. As Assistant Vice President, she oversees professional advising, campus-wide tutoring and various first-year programs and initiatives.

Sandy Gilpin has been involved in education for over 20 years. She was a high school mathematics teacher for public and private schools in Virginia, Texas, and Colorado. Also, she was a consultant for a regional education laboratory, Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), where she conducted professional development for K–12 educators. In 2007, she became a faculty member at Fort Lewis College.



Ms. Gilpin has been an instrumental leader, serving as a facilitator for the Western Region of the Colorado Core to College P20 Regional Partnerships. She was a member of the Colorado Remedial Education Policy Review Team in which her team was responsible for rewriting the state’s policy on Remedial Education and Supplemental Academic Instruction. She is also a member of the Colorado Math Pathways Task Force.

She earned her master’s degree in secondary education, with an emphasis in mathematics, from George Washington University.

Washington – Jane C. Sherman, Ph.D.

Dr. Jane C. Sherman retired last year from the position of Vice Provost for Academic Policy & Evaluation at Washington State University. For the past five years, she also served as the Associate Director for Academic Policy with the Council of Presidents (COP) office, where she worked closely with public and non-profit universities, community college systems, and K-12. For COP, she led policy analysis and advocacy in areas that included student transfer, performance funding, higher education's Common Core and Smarter Balanced agreements, and dual credit, among others.



Previously, Jane served as the Deputy Director for Academic Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Board (precursor to WSAC), where she led state-level policy development and implementation in areas that included university admission requirements, student transfer, new program approval, gender equity and diversity, and branch campus policy. Jane also has experience as a university faculty member and with non-profit organizations. She currently consults part-time with the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) on a nationwide student transfer project.