



**Dr. Denise King**  
**Superintendent/President Candidate**

Dr. Denise King has over 25 years of higher education experience in four separate states, a career that began in the California community college system.

Dr. King earned a Ph.D. in Drama and Humanities from Stanford University and a B.A. in both Music and Theater Studies from Emory University.

For the past seven years, she has served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs of Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, Tennessee. As a result of a number of institutional reforms she led, most notably the successful adoption of academic pathways, and their impact on student success, retention and completion, Cleveland State was named the first College of the Year by the Tennessee Board of Regents, recognized as the top performer of 40 community and technical colleges in the state.

She started her career in the classroom as a part-time instructor at Foothills DeAnza College in California while in graduate school. She then served as the only full-time faculty of the Theater Department at Olympic College in Bremerton, WA where over ten years she grew the program to a fully transfer degree including a Video and Film Production track. Dr. King launched her administrative career from there serving in roles of increasing responsibility at Skagit Valley College-San Juan Center, (where she supported the development of its Elderhostel/RoadScholar program to one of the top 10 in the nation), and St. Charles Community College near St Louis MO, before joining Cleveland State in an executive capacity.

She inspires and works with faculty and staff to improve student success and has helped develop new majors, tirelessly working with business, government, K-12 and universities to enable meaningful and rewarding careers for students in dual enrollment, veterans, traditional and adult students. Of special interest is her development of early college programs, a fully transferrable honors program, and an honors cooperative in Mechatronics.

She has worked closely with others at Cleveland State, the college foundation, and private/public partners to secure grants and gifts bringing in over \$5.4 million to support program development and expansion, including the addition of a new campus Center in Vonore, Tn.

She currently serves her community as a member of numerous organizations including Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Allied Arts Council, United Way, Lonza/Olin Community Advisory, and the boards of The Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus of Tennessee and of the Chattanooga Girls' Choir. Dr. King is an active member and officer of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, serving on the Board as Youth Services Chair.

At the state level, Dr. King serves as the chair of the Tennessee Board of Regents Chief Academic Officers' Council, chairs the General Education Review and Re-visioning Committee, and serves on the State's TN eCampus Oversight Council (a state-wide collaborative that delivers online education). Nationally, she serves on the AACC Commission for Global Education, and presents frequently about her college's pathways to success journey.

An active musician, Dr. King and her husband, Patrick enjoy both participating in and supporting the arts as do their children, one of whom is completing her own doctoral program, another who is just beginning her college career, and the third who merrily has graduated is now making his own mark on the world.