

Dr. Pamela Ralston



Over the course of a two-decade career in public higher education, Pamela Ralston has been dedicated to the powerful transformation that community colleges provide students, faculty and the communities we serve. She is committed to working with faculty, staff and administrators to improve student success and student equity through the creation and support of strong, innovative programs and a rewarding working environment.

Dr. Ralston became Executive Vice President of Educational Programs at Santa Barbara City College in 2018. She leads academic and student services programs at the 111-year-old college. With a headcount of 16,000 students, Santa Barbara City College offers over 155 degree and certificate programs, training in a wide range of career technical fields and excellent transfer programs.

Prior to joining SBCC, Dr. Ralston served as Vice President for Student Learning at College of the Desert, in Palm Desert, CA, overseeing the academic affairs of the college. Prior to that, she enjoyed eight years as Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo. Before moving into administration, Dr. Ralston was faculty member and division chair of English and Written Communications at Tacoma Community College, where she taught composition, American Ethnic Literature and developmental studies in writing and reading. Before joining TCC, she served as lecturer at the University of Washington in American Ethnic Studies.

Pamela Ralston has her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Oregon and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington in Comparative Literature, where she taught as a graduate student in the Comparative Literature, English and American Ethnic Studies Departments. She has earned excellence in teaching awards from both Tacoma Community College and the University of Washington, and was honored with a Fulbright fellowship for doctoral research at the Royal Library and University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Pamela lives with her wife, Chris, an attorney, and their two adorable, ancient pugs in Santa Barbara. They're fond of walks along central coast beaches, reading, cooking and are active in their church and community organizations.