

## **Dr. Sedgwick Harris**

With over 25 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Harris, the fifth president of Bristol Community College, has demonstrated an exceptional ability to transform institutions through visionary leadership, strategic planning, and an unwavering commitment to student success. As a seasoned administrator, he has served in key leadership roles, including Vice President of Administrative Affairs and Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment at Northampton Community College, where his efforts have led to significant institutional growth, enhanced academic programs, and increased student access and retention.

Dr. Harris is a tireless advocate for the rightful presence and advancement of minority students in higher education. Throughout his career, he has been dedicated to breaking down barriers and creating pathways for underserved communities to succeed. His leadership has included developing innovative student support systems and actively seeking ways to help minority students achieve their academic and professional goals.

One of Dr. Harris' signature accomplishments includes forging pioneering transfer partnerships with regional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to promote equitable educational opportunities for African American students. Additionally, Dr. Harris played a pivotal role in securing a \$500,000 Congressional Direct Spending Grant to further support access to education and foster community engagement initiatives.

Prior to joining Northampton, Dr. Harris held the position of Vice President of Student Services at both Kishwaukee College and Kaskaskia College. During his tenure, he led initiatives that increased enrollment, secured multiple TRiO grants, and spearheaded the development of a \$3.5 million wellness facility. His contributions to these institutions include creating innovative student support systems, advancing equity initiatives, and overseeing major capital projects.

Dr. Harris' commitment to equity and inclusion is deeply embedded in their leadership philosophy, which focuses on expanding access and creating environments where all students, especially those from marginalized communities, can thrive. This philosophy is reflected in his work transforming academic advising, boosting academic success for student-athletes, and supporting international students.

In addition to his administrative expertise, Dr. Harris is an accomplished grant writer, having secured millions in funding for various projects, including STEM and workforce development initiatives. His leadership in government relations has positioned his institutions as vital community resources, ensuring continued growth and student success.

Dr. Harris is also actively involved in professional development and community service. He has served as a peer evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, presented at national conferences on topics ranging from strategic enrollment management to workforce development, and contributed to the professional growth of students through teaching courses in leadership, diversity, and communications at both Northampton Community College and Delaware Valley University.

A recipient of the Aspen Institute Presidential Fellowship, Dr. Harris holds a Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership from Ferris State University, where his dissertation

focused on improving graduation and transfer rates for student-athletes. He also holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University, a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and an Associate Degree in General Studies from Southwestern Michigan Community College.

Dr. Harris' leadership is defined by a commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and student-centered success. His dedication to equity, access, and academic excellence has left an indelible mark on the institutions he has served, empowering students from all backgrounds to succeed in higher education and beyond.