

BENJAMIN A. VALDEZ, DBA, EdS

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Strategic Planning | Policy & Curriculum Development | Faculty Development

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Dedicated Educational Leader
 - Training & Development
 - Marketing & Promotions
 - Curriculum Evaluation
 - Program & Policy Development
 - Full Financial Management
 - Public Relations & Advertising
 - Student/School Needs Assessment
 - Student Recruitment
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Advising & Consulting
 - Coaching & Team Building
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EDUCATION

- *Doctor of Business Administration, Educational Administration*

California Southern University | Irvine, CA

Grade Point Average: 4.0 Graduated summa cum laude and a member of the Board of Trustee's List

- *Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership- ABD*
- *Education Specialist in Educational Supervision and Leadership*

Liberty University | Richmond, VA

- *Master of Education, Curriculum and Instructional Technology Design*
- *Master of Business Administration, Human Resource Management*

American InterContinental University | Schaumburg, IL

- *Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management*

Loyola Marymount University | Los Angeles, CA

- *Bachelor of Science in Business / Minor in Accounting & Management*

Western International University | Phoenix, AZ

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Arizona Department of Education | Educational & Leadership Licensure

Colorado Department of Education | Educational & Leadership Licensure

Colorado State Board of Community Colleges & Occupational Education

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Higher Learning Commission
- American Association of Accountants
- Society for Human Resource Management
- Colorado Society of CPA's
- National Human Resources Association
- Delta Mu Delta National Business Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Southeast Technical College | Sioux Falls, SD
Vice President of Academic Affairs

August 2018 to March 2025

Serve as the college's Chief Academic Officer and responsible for educational policy and academic programs. This includes program review and improvement, accreditation and self-evaluation, assessment of student learning and advancement of student success, academic personnel decisions, budget development, enrollment management, fiscal accountability, program and curriculum development, and the encouragement and improvement of teaching and learning.

- Responsible for planning, implementing, and coordinating the College's educational programs.
- Supervised the Academic Leadership Team and worked closely with other administrators to ensure that each academic program had proper support in meeting students' educational needs.
- While the managerial functions related to curriculum and instruction rest with the Deans, the Vice President serves as the leader in the long-term planning of educational programs, assuring the quality of instruction, selecting and developing distinguished faculty, and furthering the strategic plan, the educational master plan, and the goals and objectives of the College.
- Served as the primary link between the academics and the Vice President of Finance and Operations in all budgetary matters related to instructional programs.
- Accountable for achieving College goals and objectives within the scope of Academic Affairs as outlined in the College's Strategic Plan and for assessing and meeting the educational and vocational needs of citizens of the region.
- Created and started eleven new academic programs, which include Medical Assisting, Veterinary Technician, Respiratory Therapist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Community Health Worker, Human Resource Management, Engineering Technology, Allied Health, Dental Assisting, Paramedic Science, Behavioral and Mental Health Technician, and Residential Appraiser to address the workforce needs of the community.
- Oversaw the programmatic accreditation process leading to full accreditation of new academic programs through the Council on Dental Accreditation, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.
- Secured over \$18 million in funding from various sources, including the State of South Dakota, the City of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls Development Foundation, Sanford Health, and Avera Health, for the college to build a new state-of-the-art Healthcare Simulation Center. The expansion allows for the increased enrollment of existing healthcare programs and three new academic programs to meet the region's workforce needs and prepare students for success.
- Applied for a secured a federal earmark award of \$6.5 million through Senator John Thune's office to support updating, expanding, and remodeling the Ed Wood Trades Building, which affects the welding, HVAC/R, electrician, manufacturing and robotics, diesel mechanics, and horticulture programs for being able to expand and increase student enrollment with a total project cost of \$24 million.
- Revamped the academic leadership structure and advocated for a traditional academic model to provide oversight and leadership for the entire Academic Affairs department to support the college's mission and increase student enrollment.
- Established new and expanded articulations with nine universities, providing graduates with expanded opportunities and choices for continuing their educational pursuits.

The Art Institute of Colorado | Denver, CO

August 2013 to August 2018

Executive Vice President & Dean of Academic Affairs

Served as Chief Academic Officer, overseeing 140 full-time and adjunct faculty members, six Academic Program Deans, and 25 support staff members. Responsible for planning and delivering quality education that creates a meaningful student experience. Assisted with academic policy formulation that led to increased quality education and student success rates.

- Fosters excellence in each of the Colleges and within the academic departments by providing strong leadership through establishing a vision, strategic direction, and fostering academic excellence of the University
- Provides cohesive leadership and mentors six Academic Program Deans, the Director of Student Advising, the Director of Library Services, and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; provided leadership for the entire Academic Affairs department
- Served as the Senior Executive on the President's Council & Leadership Committee; served as the Interim President from March 2014 to September 2014 during a Presidential Search and served as the Acting President during the absence of the President
- Responsible for an \$8.9 million annual budget. Developed budget plans and allocated college financial resources to support the college mission and strategic plan
- Instituted the College of Culinary Arts study abroad program, providing over 2,000 students the opportunity to study in Italy, France, and throughout Central America
- Developed international relations to increase international student enrollment
- Created twelve articulation agreements with the Colorado Community College system and individual community colleges to increase student enrollment
- Established articulation agreements with several high school districts, which provides additional options for high school students looking for advanced placement credits at the college level
- Responsible for the re-accreditation of the campus to include a focused site visit in 2014, a change of control site visits in 2015, and the four-year site visit in 2016 under the Standard Pathways option from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Oversaw the programmatic re-accreditation of the Culinary program under the American Culinary Federation (ACF) and the Interior Design program under the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) during the 2014 and 2017 site visits
- Developed and implemented an improved course, program, and institutional assessment program that led to a complete review of curriculum standards and assessment practices
- Implemented institutional research that is proactive and that has provided a consistent assessment practice for evidenced-based decision-making and accreditation
- Executed a multi-faceted, faculty-driven professional development program based on faculty needs and institutional priorities
- Formed a new Program Advisory Committees that include collaboration with Academic Affairs, Career Services, and industry professionals to review program outcomes and establish high academic standards, which have led to improved educational quality
- Represents the University at public functions and serves on community committees to showcase the outstanding achievements of students and faculty
- Led the creation of two new Bachelor of Science degrees that expanded the University's offerings and provided a new stream of student enrollment

Argosy University | Denver, CO

October 2013 to May 2018

Doctoral Adjunct Professor, College of Business & College of Education

Planned course instruction for Doctoral and Master's level courses based on an approved syllabus to meet course content and objectives. Utilized a variety of teaching styles and methods to accommodate students' diverse learning styles. Designed, administered, and graded examinations to assess achievement and objectives as identified in the syllabus. Actively maintained retention in all classes taught by maintaining accurate attendance records, contacting absent students, and communicating attendance concerns to the administration. Provided high-quality instruction via an eight-week hybrid class format.

Examples of Courses Taught

- Talent Management
- Educational Supervision and Leadership
- Compensation, Motivation, and Rewards
- Educational Graduate Research Methods

DeVry University | Westminster, CO

May 2011 to August 2013

Dean of the College of Business & Management

Supervised the College of Business and Management for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the Keller Graduate School of Management. Oversaw a faculty staff of nine professors and an adjunct faculty of 60. Handled the creation and development of the Industry Advisory Board, which led to the implementation of several new degree programs offered by the University.

- Developed and sustained relationships between the college and alumni, business and industry, and other public and private stakeholders
- Increased revenue through development, grants, contracts, and customized professional development contracts, among others, for the advancement of college programs and resources
- Supported innovative and nationally-recognized applications of instruction, scholarship, and outreach for student retention
- Provided leadership in program assessment, external program review, and external accreditation of programs through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) and specialized accreditation for the accounting program to include the development of the Master of Science in Accounting degree and Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree
- Responsible for a department's annual budget of \$1.2 million. Developed budget plans and allocated college resources to support the college's strategic plan
- Chaired the faculty in the development of policies governing the academic programs of the College of Business and Management
- Collaborated with university colleagues and leadership to promote a team-oriented approach to achieving college and university strategic goals
- Represented DeVry University as a member of the City of Commerce City Economic Development Advisory Board
- Responsible for increasing student persistence to over 89.2% as measured from semester to semester of student enrollment
- Coordinated the hiring of twenty new adjunct professors to increase staffing and availability of qualified instructors for core program courses
- Assisted in the development of a new adjunct professor training and development program that trained new and existing faculty on the delivery of both ground and online curriculum using a hybrid format
- Worked on the development of community relationships to help promote DeVry University to the community and assist in the recruitment of students
- Created and implemented a new transfer and articulation agreement with the Colorado Community College System that increased undergraduate enrollment by 25% over nine months.

Community College of Aurora | Aurora, CO
School of Business Dean and Department Chair

August 2009 to May 2011

Oversaw and coordinated the implementation of the concurrent enrollment program with the Aurora Public School District and Cherry Creek School District for all high school students. Exercised fully designated responsibility for the departmental budget, course schedule creation, faculty and classified staff development and evaluation, and student assistance while serving as the official liaison with the college's instructional administration. Handled resource planning and advocacy; the assurance of learning processes; faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation; and curriculum development for the department. Served as the instructional leader for the Business Department and represented the department within the college, the community, and with external partners.

- Provided strong leadership and direction for five full-time faculty, 40 adjunct faculty members, and three classified staff members in the College of Business
- Developed and implemented a solid concurrent enrollment high school program with over 5,000 students from the Aurora Public School District and Cherry Creek School District enrolled in community college courses, receiving college credit while still in high school
- Worked with high school faculty for training and development in administering college courses within the high school setting
- Addressed student and faculty concerns to provide a solid and vibrant working environment
- Promoted teaching excellence, professional development, and service to the college and community while keeping abreast of standards college policies
- Oversaw, administered, and analyzed a \$1.1 million departmental budget; reduced wasteful spending by 27% to increase department revenue by over \$200,000 during the FY10 school year
- Developed a strong marketing and advertising program to increase student enrollment by 60% during the FY10 school year
- Instituted new faculty development program and evaluation techniques to improve quality instruction and support to increase student achievement
- Administered the Carl D. Perkins Grant for Vocational and Technical Education of \$550,000 for the addition of new computers, equipment, technology, and faculty training and development for the Business Department
- Created a faculty and staff development course that provided training on instructional technology, online course development, and student retention
- Worked with the Business Advisory Committee to evaluate and ensure the business program was meeting the needs of industry and preparing students for the workforce
- Met with community members to strengthen the image of the college and business department

Colorado Technical University | Westminster, CO
Associate Professor, Business Department

October 2006 to May 2011

Planned course instruction based on an approved syllabus to meet course content and objectives. Taught Doctoral, Master, and Bachelor level courses. Utilized a variety of teaching styles and methods to accommodate students' diverse learning styles. Designed, administered, and graded examinations to assess achievement and objectives as identified in the syllabus. Actively maintained retention in all classes taught by maintaining accurate attendance records, contacting absent students, and communicating attendance concerns to the administration. Taught and developed both undergraduate and graduate courses. Provided high-quality instruction via a traditional eleven-week face-to-face, hybrid class format, and five-week online format.

Examples of Courses Taught

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| • Operational Human Resource Management | • Business Statistics |
| • Qualitative Research Methods | • Graduate Research Methods |
| • Financial Statement Analysis | • Accounting Principles I & II |

Life Skills Charter High School | Denver, CO
District Superintendent of Schools

June 2000 to August 2009
 July 2005 to August 2009

Served as the *Chief Educational Officer* for the District and oversaw school operations and financial stability for thirteen high schools within the Western District. Assisted and supervised the high school principals in meeting all educational goals by providing strong leadership and direction on student achievement, financial planning, and school accountability. Directed and coordinated personnel, finance, school facilities, curriculum, and public relations. Through competent educational leadership, I maintained a solid working relationship of mutual respect and confidence with the Governing Board of Directors, community leaders, the District Board of Education, and the community.

- Collaborated with the educational management company and the Governing Board Directors to ensure superior instruction and seamless operations for thirteen high schools in Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Serving the needs of over 9,000 students
- Led in the development of a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that addressed the areas of leadership, curriculum, instructional methods, staff development, financial planning, and facilities management and maintenance
- Responsible for overseeing a \$82.2 million annual total budget, including long-term financial planning and individual school campus budgets
- Coordinated and oversaw the development and opening of six new high schools that served 4,500 students in Colorado and Arizona.
- Responsible for the marketing strategy for all schools in the district to increase student enrollment, identify successful advertising avenues, and develop an effective campaign that allowed each school to use multiple media sources to reach students and parents
- Oversaw the development and implementation of a computer-based learning curriculum and implemented particular education policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with all Federal and State regulations and student academic achievement
- Verified and ensured that all annual progress requirements complied with the *No Child Left Behind* standard and the achievement of State Report Card requirements
- Worked with each school to establish a strong school improvement plan to increase student achievement in all core academic areas measured using State and internal testing procedures. Over three years, increased student assessment scores. The Colorado School Assessment Program (CSAP) and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) scores increased by 40% where students were scoring at the appropriate grade level in meeting graduation requirements
- Met with community leaders, parents, and the Governing Board of Directors to promote education and develop a collaborative effort to increase student enrollment, maintain high student attendance, and strengthen community relationships
- Established a strong working relationship with the State Board of Education, the local school district administration, and the District Board of Education to meet all student educational needs

High School Principal

June 2000 to June 2005

Served as the educational leader who handled management and human resources, including hiring and retaining qualified staff, organizing orientation and training programs, instituting policies, and managing compliance issues. Provided guidance and leadership to instructors, administrative staff, and support teams to facilitate daily operations. Directed financial planning, budgeting, and accounting functions. Promoted the school's vision and mission while proactively improving processes and resolving issues at all levels.

- Established and promoted high standards and expectations for all students and staff for academic performance and responsible behavior
- Increased student enrollment through a well-developed marketing strategy. Student enrollment increased by 150% in the first year and by a maximum of 750 students in the second school year.

PUBLICATIONS

Valdez, B. A. (2011, March 21). Integration and Application of Business Concepts in the Operation of an Educational Institution (Doctoral dissertation, California Southern University, 2011).

Valdez, B. A. (2013, May 15). Development of Sound Educational Leadership Principles (Educational Specialist dissertation, Liberty University, 2013).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Creating a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness," 2014 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2014

"Developing Highly Effective Instructors," Colorado Association of Career Colleges & Schools Symposium on Education, Greenwood Village, CO, October 2015

"Assessment of Learning Objectives," 2016 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2016

"Fiscal Transparency in Education," Colorado Board of High School Administration Conference, Vail, CO, September 2016

"Right Sizing the Academic Budget: Balancing Revenue Gaps with Investing in Growing Programs," 2024 ACAD for Academic Leaders, Tampa, FL, February 2024

COMMUNITY & SERVICE AFFILIATIONS

Higher Learning Commission <i>Member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee</i>	May 2023 to Present
Boy Scouts of America Sioux Area Council <i>Member of the Board of Directors</i>	July 2023 to Present
South Dakota ACT State Council <i>Member of the State Advisory Board</i>	August 2020 to Present
Colorado Association of Career Colleges & Schools <i>Member of the Board of Directors</i> <i>Advisory Committee Member</i>	August 2013 to August 2018 September 2017 to Aug 2018 August 2013 to August 2017
Boy Scouts of America Denver Area Council Arapahoe District <i>District Unit Commissioner for Catholic Units</i>	August 2006 to August 2018 May 2015 to August 2018
Boy Scout Troop 467 Greenwood Village, CO <i>Assistant Scoutmaster</i>	May 2012 to August 2018
The City of Commerce City Commerce City, CO <i>Economic Development Advisory Board / Committee Member</i>	May 2011 to June 2015