

MARY C. DIXSON, PhD

SUMMARY

A collaborative and student-focused academic leader with over fifteen years of experience in administration, faculty engagement, program building, teaching, online learning, libraries, grants acquisition and management.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning Services

December, 2016 – Present

- Oversee Teaching and Learning Services to expand opportunities for faculty professional development, course improvements, pedagogical advances, faculty recognition, and teaching innovations
- Articulate and implement strategic vision for faculty development programming to align with university strategic plan
- Manage team of teaching and learning consultants and instructional designers
- Develop and deliver workshops and trainings in instruction and learning to increase faculty adoption of high impact teaching practices and student success strategies related to lecture, active learning, testing, group work, textbook adoption, and formative assessment
- Developed faculty learning community on diversity and inclusion
- Oversee university-wide teaching conference of nationally known speakers and campus experts.
- Develop online instructional program for orientation and development
- Develop assessment instruments for THECB core course outcome measurement
- Serve on taskforces for course redesign, first-gen and transfer student success, online learning, classroom technology, and strategic planning
- Teach courses for the Department of Communication

Interim Dean, UTSA Libraries, July 2015 – May 1, 2016

- Direct operations of UTSA Libraries including \$12M budget and 100+ staff members
- Established fundraising and development program for UTSA Libraries
- Added 3,900 sf of seating capacity by relocating low-use materials in the libraries
- Increased computing capacity by 93 computers through university partnerships
- Lead a library strategic planning to be in sync with the UTSA 2020 initiative
- Write SACS responses for five-year report and off-site visits

Assistant Dean of Faculty Services, UTSA Libraries, April 2014 – November 2016

- Direct operations of UTSA Faculty Services to support success in teaching and research for all university faculty
- Oversee Teaching and Learning Services to expand opportunities for faculty professional development, course improvements, pedagogical advances, faculty recognition, and teaching innovations
- Manage teaching and learning consultants and instructional librarians to provide teaching and research support to faculty and students
- Manage a state-of-the-art Faculty Center to create space for innovation, development and cross-disciplinary collaboration

- Evaluate and improving Student Learning Outcomes assessment associated with information literacy and student research skills
- Develop online instructional program for library skills and information literacy
- Raised funds and developed teaching innovations mini-grant for UTSA faculty
- Develop Open Education Resources adoption program for UTSA faculty
- Articulate and implement strategic vision for university-wide library instruction.
- Direct the development of first year experience information literacy strategies including face to face instruction, module development, curriculum, and learning outcomes assessment
- Implement Research Impact Factor and Identification project to support faculty promotion of research and scholarly works
- Teach 1 course each semester for the Department of Communication
- Serve on Quality Enhancement Plan Steering Committee and course redesign team to improve quantitative literacy and meet accreditation requirements

Dean, Interdisciplinary Programs

Northwest Vista College; July 2009 – April 2014

- Directed faculty development operations including: orientation program for new faculty, online development for adjunct faculty, faculty newsletter, and pedagogical strategies for improving teaching and learning
- Oversaw distance learning program and online course improvement initiatives resulting in a 15 percent increase in course success and retention
- Author and Principal Investigator for 5-year, \$2 million Department of Education HSI Grant to improve learning outcomes for Hispanic students
- Directed dual credit operations for over 3,000 students including managing school district relationships, supervising dual credit student success team, and ensuring high academic standards
- Lead and primary author for SACS accreditation process including five year report, QEP Report, and acting as on-site reviewer for The Commission
- Lead learning outcomes development and assessment for SACS and THECB core course development.
- Developed learning communities initiative across disciplines to promote student success and retention, particularly in core to core courses
- Improved and directed college-wide assessment, action planning, and reporting using WEAVE Online system
- Initiated faculty advising program to support graduation and retention initiatives
- Developed and expanded academic programs including peace and conflict studies, service learning, learning communities, and international programs
- Taught online courses in the field of communication to ensure an understanding of distance learning issues faced by faculty
- Directed NVC library including development of strategic vision for transforming library information literacy programming into college-wide QEP

Annette Strauss Institute, Associate Director August 2002 – May 2008

University of Texas at Austin

- Directed day to day operations of academic research and outreach institute
- Increased annual budget from \$175,000 to just under \$1,000,000 over 4 year period
- Developed, funded, and directed 7 educational outreach and research projects targeted at high school, college, and young adult populations
- Worked with research faculty to obtain grant funding including first-ever civic education research grant from Gates Foundation and only non-scientific federal earmark for the University
- Created college mentoring program in at-risk high schools

- Created scholarship endowments to promote graduate and undergraduate research and service in the public and nonprofit sectors
- Acted as administrative advocate for research faculty within university systems such as accounting, human resources, and office of sponsored projects
- Created and managed UT VOTES student civic outreach organization
- Acquired UT's Office of Survey Research operation and expanded its research services
- Hired and supervised a staff of 14 project managers, researchers, and assistants
- Delivered national presentations to donors, grant funders, and associations to increase visibility of our work
- Conducted fundraising campaigns, development initiatives and grant writing to acquire both general and project specific funding

NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bexar County Performing Arts Center Foundation

Executive Director; May 2008 – June 2009

- Directed startup operations for of \$132 million arts infrastructure project
- Set up Foundation operations including location and negotiation of office space, technology purchase and implementation, initial architectural and engineering assessments and hiring of staff
- Oversaw team of consultants in site studies and needs assessments
- Created budgets and accounting systems to track income, spending, and payments by the County
- Wrote Case Statement, grants, development materials, web site, and press releases
- Ensured milestones and targets within the legal agreements with the County and City were met

FACULTY EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at San Antonio; 1998-2000 and 2015 - Present

Business and Professional Communication, Rhetorical Communication Analysis, Small Group Communication Theory, and independent study

Northwest Vista College; January 2012 – May 2014

Interpersonal Communication courses online using Blackboard and Canvas

Trinity University; Visiting Instructor, August 2001 – May 2002

Political Communication, Rhetorical Criticism, Rhetoric of the Women's Movement, Group Communication, and Public Speaking.

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Communication Studies

Assistant Instructor & Internship Coordinator; August 1997 – June 2000

Business Communication Internship course

San Antonio College; Adjunct Faculty, August 1996 – May 1999

Business and Professional Communication, Fundamentals of Communication, and Public Speaking

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

PhD, Communication Studies, 2002

Certification in Nonprofit Management, 2002

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Master of Arts, Speech Communication, 1995

Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois
Bachelor of Arts, Speech Communication and Philosophy, 1993

PUBLICATIONS

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-8747-1619

“Imagining the American People: Strategies for Building Political Community,” with W. Jennings and R. Hart. *Journal of Communication*, 53 (2002), 1-17.

“Constructing the Electorate During Presidential Campaigns,” with R. Hart, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 29 (1999), 830-849.

“A Review of ‘Civic Literacy: How Informed Citizens Make Democracy Work’: by Henry Milner. *Political Communication*, 04/2005, Volume 22, Issue 2

RESEARCH and PROGRAM GRANT ACTIVITIES

Principle Investigator and Author

Department of Education, Title V HSI Program, \$2,081,901. “Innovista” (October 2010 – October 2015)

Minnie Stevens Piper Grant. \$5,000 “Investigation of Financial Literacy in a First Year Experience.”

Reviewer

U.S. Department of Education; Investing in Innovations Program. 2010

Managed with Rod Hart, principle investigator for the Annette Strauss Institute

- Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, \$85,000, “Civic Involvement in the Nation’s Schools” (May, 2005-April, 2006)
- Texas Council for the Humanities, \$7,500, “Piloting the American Trustees Project” (January, 2004-December, 2004)
- Hatton Sumners Foundation, \$435,520, “Implementing the New Politics Forum” (January, 2003–December, 2007)
- Dorot Foundation, \$85,000, “Speak Up, Speak Out” (December, 2002–October, 2004)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Assigning Group Work that Works.” Lilly Conference; Anaheim, CA. February 26, 2018
- “The Lecture is Dead! Long Live the Lecture!” Sunshine State Teaching Conference; St. Petersburg, FL. February 23, 2017.
- “Academics on the Edge: Engaging Communication Theory and Research in a Dialogue about Work - Life (Im)Balance” Presentation to the National Communication Association November 22, 2014

CONVENTION PAPERS

- “The American Trustees Program: Inspiring a New Generation”
- Texas Council for the Social Studies 2006
- “The Rhetoric of Compromise: An Analysis of the Arthur S. DeMoss Ads,” National Communication Conference 1998
- “The Sound of Annihilation: The Rhetoric of Popular Music in a Nuclear Age,” National Communication Conference 1998

HONORS: Phi Kappa Phi; Texas A&M Trustees Fellow; Augustana College Presidential Scholar

April 13, 2018

The Hiring Committee for Dean of Academic Success
San Antonio College
1300 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, Texas 78212

To the committee:

Please consider this letter and my curriculum vitae as my application for the Dean of Academic Success at San Antonio College. I am a strategic and student-focused academic leader with a proven record of building programs and energizing others to meet the needs of a diverse student population. I believe I have the right combination of expertise, experience and leadership to further the goals of the Alamo INSTITUTES initiative. Specifically, I have:

- An appreciation for San Antonio's diverse student populations;
- a data-driven decision-making process that achieves measurable results;
- a faculty perspective about the opportunities and challenges in teaching;
- almost 10 years of experience in higher education administration;
- an understanding of the transition to a 4-year institution;
- a collaborative approach that motivates employees;
- proven success developing partnerships in education, nonprofit, and business;
- a passion for the mission of our community colleges and our San Antonio community.

My professional goals center around increasing opportunities for students. I have witnessed first-hand the uphill battles too many students face navigating college. It is impossible to overstate the importance of creating clear paths to completion with the appropriate tools for learning and success. In my current position at UTSA, I create faculty development programming to lower DFW rates, expanded use of breakthrough strategies for teaching first generations students, establish faculty diversity and inclusion programs, and help faculty redesign high-impact courses. I collaborate on initiatives to remove barriers for transfer students and improve faculty understanding about the first-generation experience. During my time at Northwest Vista College, I expanded dual credit and developed strong relationships. I also increased the number of faculty teaching online to maximize flexibility for students. I used a Title V grant to innovate with programs like learning communities and faculty advising program to improve student outcomes.

I enjoy my work at UTSA, and have continued to see my position expand in scope, but I deeply miss the ground-breaking work that community colleges do. San Antonio College is 100% focused on serving students and our community. It is where I fell in love with teaching over 20 years ago, and I can't think of a better place. I would welcome a chance to talk about how my experience and skills fit your needs. Thank you for all you do for students.

Sincerely,