



Irene Rios, Ed.D., is a transformational higher education leader dedicated to expanding opportunity, strengthening workforce pathways, and championing student success. With more than twenty years of experience across community colleges and universities in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, she has built a career grounded in the belief that education changes lives and strengthens communities.

Dr. Rios currently serves as the Ammerman Campus Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Suffolk County Community College/SUNY Suffolk. In these roles, she leads the college's largest campus and oversees academic operations for a multi-campus institution—the largest community college in New York—serving more than 20,000 credit and continuing-education students. Her leadership emphasizes academic excellence, equitable access, shared governance, and strong partnerships with industry and community organizations.

Known for her student-centered approach, Dr. Rios is committed to creating welcoming, high-engagement campus environments. She is a visible presence at student events, a champion for faculty and staff collaboration, and a dedicated advocate for programs that open doors to economic mobility.

A seasoned educational leader, Dr. Rios is deeply committed to the technical and community college mission of providing student-centered, open-access, high-quality education for all who seek opportunities for career advancement and further study. She has led academic planning processes that resulted in new degree programs aligned with student and regional workforce needs; collaborated with clinical partners to raise funds for new allied health programs; secured significant external grants in support of students and academic programs; and guided budget processes to ensure resources are aligned with programmatic priorities.

Dr. Rios provides leadership for the planning, management, and assessment of all credit and non-credit instructional programming, as well as designing initiatives for enrollment growth and economic and workforce development. Her experience as both a faculty member and administrator includes leading accreditation efforts with faculty, deans, and department chairs; analyzing student success data; and identifying strategic directions to strengthen teaching and learning. Through close collaboration with

faculty, staff, and administrative colleagues, she has helped cultivate a campus culture that is welcoming, student-centered, and focused on achievement.

Before joining SUNY Suffolk, Dr. Rios held senior academic leadership roles at Naugatuck Valley Community College, Albertus Magnus College, and Springfield College, and earlier positions at Saint Joseph College and Rochester Institute of Technology. Across these institutions, she has led new program development, expanded technical and career pathways, secured external funding, and strengthened processes and systems that support teaching and student learning. She purposefully moved her career into public higher education, where access to education promotes individual opportunity and success.

Dr. Rios earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford and both her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from Rochester Institute of Technology. Her doctoral research received national recognition from the National Academic Advising Association.

She feels privileged to work alongside faculty and campus leaders to support and celebrate idealistic, ambitious, socially aware, community-oriented, and hard-working students who bring optimism to the future of our communities. She is dedicated to the belief that higher education helps all students earn a living and live a life—and she is energized by the opportunity to lead Springfield Technical Community College into its next chapter: supporting faculty and staff, deepening industry partnerships, expanding technical education, and ensuring every student has a clear, supported path to success.