

Dr. Nicole Albo-Lopez

Dr. Nicole Albo-Lopez, graduated from Spokane Community College with a certificate in dental assisting before enjoying a ten-year career as a certified Dental Assistant. As an Arizona native, she returned to Arizona and began teaching for Rio Salado College (RSC) as an adjunct professor and became the Clinical Dental Assisting Program (CDA) Director. In 2003, she shepherded the program through its inaugural Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accreditation. She went on to earn her master's degree in Health Professions Education from Midwestern University, and subsequently became full-time residential faculty. As a full-time faculty member and department chair, she assisted the American Dental Association (ADA) with the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) pilot program in partnership with urban, rural, and tribal communities. Additionally, she created a dual enrollment CDA program allowing high school seniors to graduate with their certificate and high school diploma concurrently. Leveraging the success of these innovative technical education programs, she worked with the colleges adult basic education program to create a contextualized program modeled off IBEST, affording students with opportunity to earn their GED and dental assisting credential simultaneously.

As a known and trusted campus leader, Nicole moved onto administrative positions at RSC and served as the Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Interim Dean of Instruction. As an administrator, she oversaw accreditation and planning efforts along with many of the colleges career and technical education programs (i.e., dental assisting, dental hygiene, CDHC, addiction and substance abuse, allied health, post-baccalaureate teacher preparation, early childhood education, etc.) Her family relocated to southern California in 2012, and she joined the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) as a Dean of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC), the first technical college designated by the State of California in its Master Plan for Higher Education.

In this role, she oversaw the curriculum and scheduling unit, along with various adult education, outreach, and workforce programs. Given her expertise, she was appointed as the colleges Los Angeles Orange County Regional Consortium representative and voting member responsible for creating new career programs focused on opening doors for adult, disenfranchised, and incumbent workers; facilitating upskilling for the region's existing labor force; expanding employment opportunities for students, and offering more highly trained candidates for employers across Los Angeles County. Nicole earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, and after moving on from LATTC, also served in the positions of Vice President of Academic Affairs (Mission), Interim Vice President of Student Services (Harbor), and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development (Harbor) all colleges within the LACCD.

Currently, Dr. Albo-Lopez serves as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness (EPIE) for the LACCD. As the chief instructional officer and leader working within one of the most diverse college districts in the nation, she is a strong and proven advocate for access, equity, success, and upward mobility for all students. In this role she is responsible for accreditation, diversity, equity & inclusion initiatives, professional development, attendance accounting, institutional research & planning, enrollment management, audits, dual enrollment, distance education, guided pathways, student services & success, grants, curriculum & academic programs, board committee support, and other key initiatives as directed by the district Deputy Chancellor.

Nicole enjoys spending time with her husband Edward (an avid motorcycle enthusiast), dogs (Max and Paco), her son Andrew and his family, as well as her large extended family in Arizona. As a naturally curious person, she loves to read, learn, and travel around in her 1984 Alfa Romeo spider veloce convertible with her husband.