

Dr. Evon Walters brings 25 years of distinguished executive leadership, defined by a proven track record of elevating academic excellence, advancing equity, and forging strategic partnerships that expand student access, enhance student success, and strengthen regional workforce development pipelines. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, he earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees while lettering in Track & Field. He is a 2003 Fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE) and was honored with the 2020 Paragon Award for Presidents by Phi Theta Kappa, recognizing community college presidents who demonstrate outstanding support for student achievement, engagement, and leadership. Earlier in his academic career, he served as faculty and chair of the education department at Olivet College, where he was honored with the prestigious Riethmiller Award for Excellence in Scholarship. He has held a wide range of executive leadership roles, including President, Campus CEO, and Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

A respected national voice and published scholar in the community college sector, Dr. Walters's work has been cited more than 150 times. He serves as a manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice* and has contributed his expertise through service on several American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) commissions, including the Commissions on College Readiness, Student Success, and, currently, Structured Pathways. He also spent eight years as a systems appraiser and evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), underscoring his longstanding commitment to academic quality, institutional excellence, and student-centered innovation. Widely recognized for his entrepreneurial, collaborative, and data-informed leadership, he is credited with spearheading the conceptualization and redesign of high-tech and data-driven Student Success Centers, as well as leading the development of strategic enrollment management plans at three community colleges. In addition to receiving national recognition from the Community College Review, Trustee Quarterly, and EDUCAUSE, these initiatives led to increases in student persistence and enrollment. While at Montgomery County Community College, he played a key leadership role in pursuing and securing the college's selection as one of only 10 founding community colleges nationally chosen to participate in the John Gardner Institute's prestigious Foundations of Excellence initiative, focused on strengthening the First-Year Student Experience.

At his current institution, Dr. Walters partnered with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) and the Verizon Foundation to establish, at that time, one of only five Digital Inclusion Centers in the country, targeting historically underserved communities. He also led the launch of the Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program, designed to introduce female, rural, and historically underrepresented middle school students to STEM pathways.

During his tenure as Campus CEO at Suffolk County Community College's Eastern campus, Dr. Walters partnered with the central administration to lead a collaborative advocacy and fundraising effort with faculty governance and union leadership to secure \$40 million in capital funding for the construction of a new Learning Resource Center and Health & Wellness facility at the Eastern campus. This success is one of several that reflect his proven track record in securing alternative funding streams to advance institutional priorities. His leadership efforts have consistently engaged partners across K-12, business and industry, and community-based organizations to build pipelines that expand access and career pathways.

Dr. Walters is deeply engaged in civic leadership, serving as Vice Chair of the Northside Shore Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of Propel Charter Schools, and as a member of Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Shared Prosperity, the Jefferson Regional Foundation's Vision Council, and the Northside Works Workforce Development Committee. Throughout his career, his community and civic engagement and service have earned numerous accolades, including the Suffolk County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Award, the New York Governor's Certificate of Recognition for public service and advancing diversity, and, most recently, in 2024, the Man of Excellence by the *New Pittsburgh Courier*.

He is married to Rhonda Walters, Vice President for Talent Management at the Allegheny Conference. Their son, Evon Jr., is a freshman at Temple University, majoring in Business Administration.