

Biography of Dr. David Ferreira



Dr. David “Dave” Ferreira is Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Charter Oak State College, an open access public state college in Connecticut. With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, he has dedicated his career to expanding access, strengthening student success, and aligning academic programs with workforce and community needs. Prior to his current role, he served

as Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, where he oversaw academic programs, student support services, and workforce partnerships. Throughout his leadership career, Dr. Ferreira has led significant enrollment growth at multiple institutions by developing workforce-aligned programs, strengthening transfer pathways, and fostering strategic partnerships with employers, community organizations, and educational institutions.

Dr. Ferreira is recognized as a forward-thinking leader in academic innovation and workforce development. He has led efforts to modernize curricula, expand stackable credential pathways, and integrate emerging technologies to better prepare students for evolving careers. A leader in integrating artificial intelligence into higher education and workforce development, he was recently an AI Pioneer Fellow with Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national initiative focused on advancing responsible AI adoption to improve student outcomes and economic mobility. He also launched a statewide AI Academy that provides learners with free access to in-demand skills and industry-recognized credentials, helping students and community members thrive in a rapidly changing economy.

Dr. Ferreira’s leadership is grounded in collaboration, transparency, and a deep commitment to student-centered decision making. He has led strategic planning initiatives that engage faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders, and he has successfully secured external funding to support workforce programs, student success initiatives, and institutional innovation. As a first-generation college student, he is deeply committed to the mission of community colleges and their vital role in expanding opportunity and strengthening communities. Outside of his professional work, Dr. Ferreira enjoys hiking, sports, traveling and exploring new cultures with his wife and children, and is an avid English Bulldog enthusiast.