

Mark Johnson

SUMMARY

Experienced Vice President, Chief Academic Officer, and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) with a record of leading academic and student affairs across multi-campus community colleges. Proven success guiding Minnesota State institutions through HLC accreditation, strengthening enrollment and retention, and aligning workforce programs with regional needs. Known for steady, inclusive leadership, strong shared governance relationships, and advancing institutional priorities during periods of transition.

EDUCATION

Ed.D., Higher Education Leadership, Anticipated
WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY, School of Education

J.D., Law,
WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW

M.A., English Literature,
WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY, School of Liberal Arts

B.A., English,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE, School of Liberal Arts

A.A., Ethnic Studies,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CENTER-BARABOO/SAUK COUNTY

EXPERIENCE

HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE (Multiple Roles) **2018-2022; 2024-Present**
Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie, MN
Urban technical college (~6,000 students; Minnesota State)

Dean of Building & Transportation; Accreditation Liaison Officer **2024-Present**
Led 16 workforce-aligned technical programs while serving as the institution's ALO and guiding the college through its comprehensive evaluation.

- Lead the college's upcoming HLC Comprehensive Evaluation, including development of the assurance argument, federal compliance documentation, and campus preparation
- Serve as institutional ALO, coordinating accreditation reporting and monitoring compliance
- Supervise and develop more than 48 faculty and staff across multiple bargaining units
- Launched a new, MN Department of Labor-certified Construction Electrician program, generating an additional 120 FYE annually
- Reversed enrollment and retention declines in three underperforming programs through industry-aligned redesigns

- Serve as lead administrator for the \$4.1 million Minnesota Forward Fund from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2018-2022

Led the largest academic division, including all general education and seven distinct technical programs, with 78 faculty and staff

- Reversed enrollment declines in Culinary with a program redesign and the addition of a Baking and Pastry Entrepreneurship pathway
- Oversaw strategic planning, program development, and assessment across a large academic division
- Achieved program accreditation for Concurrent Enrollment (NACEP), Business/Accounting (ACBSP), and Culinary (ACF)
- Led developmental education programming to align with the Minnesota State Developmental Educational Strategic Roadmap (DESR), including an initial co-requisite model in English

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE–SOUTHEAST

2023-2024

Winona and Red Wing, MN

Rural community college (~2,200 students; Minnesota State)

Vice President of Student Success & Chief Academic Officer

Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer and cabinet member overseeing academic affairs, student services, enrollment management, and institutional planning.

- Provided executive leadership during a period of institutional transition, working closely with the President and campus leaders to maintain operational continuity and strategic focus
- Built and maintained productive relationships with faculty and staff unions to support institutional priorities and maintain a positive working climate
- Directed institutional enrollment strategy and student success initiatives focused on access, retention, completion, and equity
- Advanced workforce-aligned programming and regional partnerships to support rural economic development

CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE

2022-2023

Brainerd and Staples, MN

Rural community college (~6,000 students; Minnesota State)

Interim Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs

Appointed interim executive leader overseeing all academic and student affairs functions. Served as Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and member of the President’s Executive Team.

- Led institution through successful HLC comprehensive evaluation, ensuring continued accreditation status and federal compliance
- Directed academic affairs, student services, enrollment management, institutional research, and workforce programming
- Reversed enrollment decline, achieving 2% growth while the statewide system declined approximately 3%

- Implemented a comprehensive student experience model, including case management advising, early alerts, and orientation redesign
- Strengthened alignment between workforce training, small business development, and credit programming
- Advanced institutional equity goals by embedding equity-focused metrics into program review and student success strategies

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE-NORTH CAMPUS (Multiple Roles)

2010-2018

Houston, TX

Large, multi-campus community college (~10,000+ students; Hispanic-Serving Institution)

Dean of Business & Technology

2016-2018

Senior academic leader responsible for 19 workforce programs, 100+ faculty, and a \$9.5M budget—over half of the campus instructional portfolio.

- Led the completion and transition of industrial programs into the new Center for Industrial Technology building, collaborating with the engineers, architects, and contractors in the development of instructional space
- Collaborated with department chairs to develop AACC Pathways maps that remove financial barriers and address completion and equity gaps
- Obtained a 2017-18 Carl Perkins Leadership Grant to develop an OER technical certificate in Retail Management to increase equity and online enrollment
- Led the implementation of the Achieving the Dream OER Degree grant, saving students more than \$1.25 million on course material costs during the first three semesters of the grant
- Created a new partnership with Aggreko, an international power generation supplier, to train cohorts of technicians and grow this segment of our workforce

Department Chair, English & Humanities

2014-2016

Led three departments with 10 full-time and 30+ adjunct faculty. Directed strategy, operations, and curriculum delivery for the college’s largest transfer division, with responsibility for enrollment growth, faculty development, and student success outcomes.

- Appointed as Project Director of the Achieving the Dream OER Degree grant initiative, a consortium with Austin, Alamo, and El Paso Colleges to develop an equity-focused, full OER associate degree in General Studies
- Redesigned Humanities program to address diversity and equity gaps; increased enrollment to more than 1400 students during the first year
- Grew English enrollment nearly 10% by expanding our online and hybrid course offerings
- Increased Modern Language enrollment by nearly 15% by expanding online course offerings
- Implemented accelerated parts of term for Composition I and II to remove equity gaps and improve part-time student completion rates
- Increased the number of Quality Matters-trained faculty by more than 50% to improve online pedagogy and innovation

English Professor, Distinguished Faculty

2010-2014

- Increased student success rates in my online courses by 7%
- Awarded Distinguished Faculty designation for equity excellence and innovation in the classroom

- Implemented large-scale district-wide events, bringing best-selling authors (i.e. Justin Cronin, Robert Boswell, David Eagleman) to campus for an Author-on-Campus reading series and writer’s workshop
- Implemented large-scale district-wide event, bringing 17-year-old Cassandra Lin, a nationally-recognized entrepreneur and social activist to SJC as part of our service-learning initiative; Lin was a CNN Young Hero and a Huffington Post Most Powerful Young Person in the World
- Transitioned the English Department literary magazine, *Prism*, from paper to digital—using Adobe Creative Suite—in an effort to reduce costs and to make the magazine more available beyond the campus

WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY (Multiple Roles)

2004-2007

Winona, MN

Comprehensive Midwestern public university (~9,000 students)

Interim Director of Public Information

2004-2005

Managed the WSU Public Information Office staff to produce university news content for internal and external audiences

- Transitioned WSU Update—the weekly campus news publication—from paper to 100% digital
- Developed the WSU Expert Resource database for external stakeholders to locate internal experts as information resources
- Helped coordinate large-scale media events, such as the Darrell Krueger Library Dedication

Full-Time Fixed-Term English Instructor

Taught both undergraduate and graduate writing courses, while serving the English Department as a graduation portfolio reviewer, website update coordinator, student advisory, and First-Year Student Success course instructor.

- Developed WSU’s first *Web Writing and Rhetoric* course
- First English Department instructor at WSU to integrate web portfolio assessment into the Composition classroom
- Co-presented at the 2005 iTeach conference with Pat Paulson and Joan Bernard about integrating web technologies into the Liberal Arts classroom

HONORS

- AACC John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute (2017)
- San Jacinto College Distinguished Faculty (2012-2014)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **Johnson, M.** (2025). “*Wired for the future: How AI helped power a new construction electrician program,*” at the Minnesota State Academic and Student Affairs Conference.
- Bodin, J., **Johnson, M.**, Rood, D. (2024). “*Preparing your campus for the comprehensive site visit,*” Presentation at the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference.
- **Johnson, M.**, Medeck, G., Peterson, J. (2023). “*Maintaining Rigor in a Culture of Caring,*” at the CLC In-Service Program.

- **Johnson, M.**, Lauritsen, J. (2022). *“Turning a whale in a bathtub: A strategic focus on retention,”* at the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference.
- Davis, A., **Johnson, M.** (2021). *“You’re on mute’: How faculty clicked off mute and stayed connected in the remote world of the pandemic,”* at the Lake Superior Summit on the Teaching of Writing.
- **Johnson, M.** (2017). *“Collaborating across colleges: OER degree, Texas consortium,”* at the Achieving the Dream OER Degree Initiative Summit.
- **Johnson, M.** (2017). *“Achieving equity with OER degrees,”* at the Achieving the Dream OER Degree Initiative Summit.
- **Johnson, M.**, Thanos, K. (2017). *“A debate on “open” educational resources: Trendy? Sure, but are they viable for the long haul?”* at SXSW EDU Conference in collaboration with The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- **Johnson, M.** (2016). *“Accelerating from 0 to 60: Rapid OER degree adoption strategies,”* at the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Conference.
- **Johnson, M.** (2016). *“Achieving the dream’s OER degree consortium,”* at the Open Education Conference.
- **Johnson, M.** (2015). *“Pathways project and the national success agenda,”* at the Texas Community College Teachers Association Convention.
- Jennings, M.K., **Johnson, M.** (2014). *Story power: Fostering creative growth in students,”* at the Community College Humanities Association.
- **Johnson, M.** (2013). *“Bilingual/Bilingüe: Language borders,”* at San Jacinto College, Hispanic Heritage Month event.
- **Johnson, M.** (2013). *“Cultivating student ownership with interactive web-portfolios,”* at Lee College, Innovations in Teaching and Learning Technology.
- Bernard, J., **Johnson, M.**, Paulsen, P. (2005). *“Practicing what we preach: Useful interdisciplinary approaches to web technologies and the liberal arts classroom,”* at the iTeach Conference.

GRANT LEADERSHIP

- Supervisor, Minnesota Forward Fund (Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development), \$4.1 million (2025-Present)
- Supervisor, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), ~\$286,000 (2018-2020)
- Lead, Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund, Equitable Technology Access for Students, \$210,000 (2020)
- Lead, Carl Perkins Leadership Grant—OER Technical Certificate, \$199,977 (2017-2018)
- Lead, Achieving the Dream OER Degree Consortium Grant, \$75,000 (2014-2017)
- Supervisor, Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant, \$1.75 million (2017-2018)
- Lead, San Jacinto College Foundation Student Success Initiative Grant, \$5,000 (2012)

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Catch a Trade, Scholarship Reviewer and Recipient Mentor (2025-Present)
- Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence, Board Member (2024-Present)
- William Mitchell College of Law Advocacy Center, Certified Student Attorney

- Ramsey County Public Defender's Office, Certified Student Attorney
- Minnesota Department of Revenue, Certified Tax Preparer
- Dakota County Attorney's Office, Student Certified Attorney