

## Dr. Delfina Acosta Wilson



Dr. Delfina Acosta Wilson has an extensive background in higher education with over fifteen years of leadership experience, spanning from academics, workforce development, and student affairs. She is a student-centered and equity-minded professional who strives to foster a community where all students, faculty, and staff feel supported and valued.

Dr. Wilson most recently served as Vice President of Student Affairs at Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC), an urban multi-site college serving the Greater Kansas City Metro Area. Previously, she served as Dean of Enrollment Management & Student Services at KCKCC. In this role, she ensured that all members of the student community were living and functioning in a safe and comfortable environment where they can learn and grow. Dr. Wilson led more than 100 student affairs professionals supporting approximately 9,000 students across the college, from enrollment through graduation. Aimed at creating a campus that thoughtfully utilized data to improve student success and her passion for the retention, care, and persistence of all students – with great focus on underserved populations, she led the strategic planning efforts resulting in the development of *Excellence Matters: Strategic Enrollment Management Plan*.

During her time at KCKCC, she collaborated to advance guided pathways and transitioned to an assigned advisor model. She established partnerships and participated in the College's Centennial Campaign to build a comprehensive Community Education Center in the heart of the urban core in Kansas City, Kansas. She led the efforts to establish the Military & Veteran Center on-site to expand services and create a designated space for military-affiliated students. Dr. Wilson reorganized the Career Services Center and established the Center for Equity, Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement to improve the sense of belonging for students on campus. In addition, she greatly expanded student basic needs and mental health support by establishing the college's Blue Devils Food Pantry, expanding the services provided by the Student Health Center, and building a new 260-bed Student Housing facility scheduled to open in fall 2022.

In fall 2021, Dr. Wilson was selected to participate in the first cohort of the Strategic Data Project Fellowship for Career and Technical Education (SDP-CTE), a one-year capacity building program of the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University. The primary focus of this fellowship is to significantly improve student success by developing strategic policies, improving institutional abilities for quality decision making and building internal capacities to critically understand institutional characteristics and supporting evidence-based decisions.

Dr. Wilson's career has included working at small, mid-sized, and large research universities and community colleges. Prior to her work at KCKCC, she served as the Associate Dean of Student Services for the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Nova Southeastern University, Dean of Students/District Director Recruitment at East Mississippi Community College, and as a Workforce Specialist at East Mississippi Community College. Dr. Wilson also held faculty appointments at Nova Southeastern University, the University of Miami, and East Mississippi Community College. She served as active duty military with the United States Air Force as a Law Enforcement Officer from 1994 to 1998.

Dr. Wilson holds a master's degree in Educational Psychology and a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University.