

Biography

Andrea Alexander is currently the Vice President of Administrative Services at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, CA. Ms. Alexander is originally from Chicago, Illinois and is a product of the Chicago Public School System. Ms. Alexander has more than 20 years of experience in leadership and management and more than 12 of those years have been in higher education. Her experience within higher education has been at private colleges, public universities, and within the community college system. She worked in Corporate America for a fortune 500 company before entering higher education over 12 years ago. Ms. Alexander entered higher education with a mindset of helping students, alike herself, who are minorities, women, and first generation college students navigate the higher education landscape. Ms. Alexander has a student first approach to her leadership and is a social justice advocate.

Ms. Alexander's passion for social justice is demonstrated throughout her educational career and her academic achievements which include a Masters degree in higher education with a focus in social justice and equity and most recently her work towards completing her Doctoral degree. Her dissertation focuses on examining the racial and sexual microaggressions women of color experience within higher education that negatively impacts their self-efficacy, major chosen, and ultimately their career trajectory. In addition, Ms. Alexander conducted a mixed-methodology study to include generational differences and similarities for this marginalized group to better understand the changes in higher education from 1971 to 2016. She will be completing her degree in January 2021 and her work will be published by March 2021.

However, Ms. Alexander's career work within social justice and equity began over 15 years ago when she began taking continuing education classes on multiculturalism, cultural competence, effective leadership of diverse cultures and people, and educational programming for diverse students. These vast experiences allowed her to gain insight into the practical needs of how to integrate cultural competence, not only into curriculum, but into the hiring process, the retention process, and institutional norms and practices. These institutional norms and practices include how we introduce the students to the campus, how we include their cultural norms into the everyday activities and workings of the campus, and how the institution allows for both diversity of thought and diversity of interactions. Ms. Alexander understands that diversity of thought and diversity of interactions does not only exist within the classroom through academic freedom, but must extend to allowing for diverse thought within participatory governance, leadership meetings, classified professional development, and the overall campus culture.

Ms. Alexander also brings a wealth of fiscal management, bond management, and strategic management knowledge. More importantly, she understands how all of these skills have to be integrated into student programming and enrollment management to net the best results for students. She also acts as the chair of the Emergency Response Team at her current college which has single handedly led the college and the students through the COVID-19 pandemic. These are all skills Ms. Alexander is eager to bring to Southwestern College.

Andrea Alexander 12.6.20

Ms. Alexander holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Chicago, a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Loyola Chicago, and she will be completing her doctoral degree in Higher Education - Entrepreneurial Leadership from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in March 2021.