

Shelley Barkley, Ed.D.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
John Wood Community College

Dr. Shelley Barkley serves as Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at John Wood Community College, where she provides executive leadership for academic affairs, student services, enrollment management, workforce development, and student support initiatives across six campus locations. With more than fifteen years of community college leadership and teaching experience, she has dedicated her career to advancing student success, educational access, and community impact through the mission of community colleges.

Recognized nationally for her leadership and commitment to student success, Dr. Barkley was selected for the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program's prestigious Rising Presidents Fellowship, one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for community college presidents. Her selection reflects a demonstrated record of advancing student outcomes, strengthening institutional effectiveness, and leading transformational change in higher education.

A passionate advocate for student success, Dr. Barkley serves as Project Lead for the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement's Rural Guided Pathways initiative. Throughout her career, she has championed Guided Pathways reform, Caring Campus implementation, enrollment and retention strategies, dual-credit expansion, transfer pathway development, and innovative student support practices designed to eliminate barriers and improve student achievement.

Dr. Barkley is also a strong advocate for workforce and economic development. She has advanced partnerships that align educational opportunities with regional employer needs while expanding healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and career and technical education pathways. Her leadership includes helping establish Illinois' first community college-based Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) chapter, creating innovative pathways that prepare students for high-demand careers and support regional economic growth.

An active leader at the state and national levels, Dr. Barkley is a Past President of the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Community College System Foundation.

Dr. Barkley holds a Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership from Ferris State University and a Master of Science in Family and Child Studies from Northern Illinois University. She is known for her collaborative leadership style, student-centered approach, and commitment to advancing excellence in rural community colleges.

