

Mark Dunneback, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President of Workforce & Community Innovation Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Mark Dunneback is an accomplished higher education leader, educator, and workforce development strategist with over 14 years of experience in higher education, preceded by a successful 17 years of experience in corporate industry. Throughout his career, Mark has demonstrated a commitment to student success, workforce alignment, and community engagement, helping institutions expand educational opportunity while responding to the evolving needs of employers and regional economies. He currently serves as Associate Vice President of Workforce & Community Innovation at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, where he provides strategic leadership for more than 26 career-focused programs across four campus locations, including credit and workforce programs, apprenticeships, internships, training academies, and community education initiatives.



Prior to joining Kalamazoo Valley, Mark served at Ferris State University, beginning as a part-time instructor in the Manufacturing and Quality Engineering Technology programs, achieving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor before being selected as School Director in the College of Engineering Technology. Mark's educational leadership is further strengthened by an extensive industry background in quality and process engineering across the transportation, electronics, and medical device sectors, where he held leadership roles focused on operational excellence, continuous improvement, and organizational performance.

A recognized advocate for career-focused technical education and workforce innovation, Mark has contributed to numerous statewide and regional efforts that strengthen educational pathways and economic development. He has served on the Perkins V Executive Committee, participated in multiple Michigan Community College Association work groups, and recently completed a three-year term as President of the Michigan Occupational Deans Administrative Council, where he continues to serve as an officer. His collaborative approach to leadership has fostered partnerships among peer colleges and universities, K-12 districts, employers, healthcare organizations, and community stakeholders to create opportunities that expand access and success, strengthen communities, and support economic vitality.

As a first-generation college graduate from a rural farming community, Mark's own educational journey reflects the transformative power of accessible quality education. After completing a U.S. Department of Labor Toolmaker Apprenticeship through his local community college, Mark earned a Bachelor of Science in Quality Engineering Technology, a Master of Science in Management, and a Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership. His experiences as a student, practitioner, educator, and administrator have shaped a leadership philosophy grounded in active listening, transparency, integrity, and shared purpose. Mark is a passionate advocate for lifelong learning and believes community colleges play a vital role in creating opportunity, empowering individuals, strengthening families, and fostering thriving communities through learner-centered education and workforce enhancement.