

JOSEPH A. KONOPKA

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HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

Innovative leader and educator with extensive experience applying creative solutions to complex issues within higher education. Proven experience in building teams and managing institutional resources to ensure that educational objectives are met. Highly skilled at changing culture by developing relationships and fostering collaboration throughout the organization. Demonstrated expertise in:

- Academic Leadership
- Innovative Partnerships
- Technology Enhanced Learning
- Policy Management
- Strategic Planning and Execution
- Teaching and Service Excellence
- Program Assessment
- Leadership Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE, TOMS RIVER, NJ

2017-PRESENT

Ocean County College is a public two-year community college that offers a range of credit and non-credit programs. The programs are offered at the associate degree level combined with several certificate programs. The academic offerings are based in the schools of Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Science, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Vice President, Academic Affairs (January 2019 -Present)

Interim Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs (October 2017-January 2019)

Provides leadership and direction to School Deans in areas of program assessment, curriculum development, and learning outcomes. Collaborates closely with departments outside of Academic Affairs to develop programs for student success. Serves as representative on statewide committees for Academic Affairs to establish best practices at the college. Implements professional development programs for Academic Affairs, which leads to promotional opportunities for staff. Partners with various administrative departments to develop and implement grants for the college, including Perkins, College Readiness Now, Title III, and Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act. Creates annual planning and budget documents for the department of Academic Affairs to ensure alignment with college funding. Facilitates meetings with faculty and lecturers for feedback and continuous improvement leading to increases in course success rates.

Interim Associate Vice President, E-Learning (August 2017-October 2017)

Provided leadership, direction, and management to the e-learning department. Worked closely with Dean of e-Learning to determine course and program development cycle for increased enrollment. Collaborated with Academic Affairs' leadership to facilitate the development of new programs, courses, and curriculum for international growth. Identified opportunities to expand services that enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes for new online programs.

Senior Aide to the President, Projects and Key Initiatives (June 2017-August 2017)

Provided executive leadership support to the college President. Worked on multiple project teams, including marketing, enrollment, and fundraising, to ensure alignment with strategic priorities. Served on

President's leadership team to identify recommendations for processes and program change. Participated in campus wide events and community related activities on behalf of College President.

Accomplishments for:

Academic Affairs

- Provided leadership for the development of new programs and certificates as part of the guided pathways model. New pathways and curriculum were developed for business, social science, and technology-based programs.
- Collaborated with the Deans to identify new workforce programs. Specific programs were developed in partnership with Intel, Google, and Bloomberg Financial Systems.
- Partnered with the e-learning department for the development of new programs, courses, and certificates for expanding programs to Egypt. New program articulation agreements were established with two major Egyptian Universities.
- Serve as senior college liaison for Kean/Ocean campus. Enrollments have increased for Kean/Ocean partnership to over 1000 students.
- Implemented new Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) group with the Vice President of Student Affairs. Led to increases in student enrollment for new academic programs.
- Served on the strategic planning advisory group that led to the development of a new strategic plan for the college. The strategic plan guides the planning and budgeting process for the college, including the alignment of new funding requests for academic programs.
- Worked closely with Executive Director of Academic Success to increase embedded and dual enrollment program offerings within high schools. Enrollment increased from 300 students to over 1500 students.
- Led the development of the first Academic Master Plan at the college. Master plan aligned the strategic priorities of academic affairs division to the strategic plan for the College.
- Developed new business relationships with large employers in Ocean County and the state of NJ as part of the NJ Pathways program. Piloting new programs with the Robert Wood Johnson/Barnabas Health System and the Joint Military Base, which is located in Ocean County.
- Secured \$2.7 million in funding as part of the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act. Funding is designated for upgrades in physical space and technology for new programs at the college.
- Contributed to the growth of innovative pedagogical programs by partnering with key faculty and administrators. Equipped over 50 classrooms with technology to promote blended learning and highly flexible (hyflex) modalities.
- Established partnership with Discovery Education for faculty development. Development program increased faculty skill sets for new delivery modalities.
- Served on the Ocean County College foundation committee to develop the Blauvelt Speaker series. The speaker series has led to an increase of \$100k in funding for the college.
- Increased articulation agreements with various four-year colleges and universities for programs offered in Ocean County and abroad. Recently received approval for 3+1 program in NJ where Ocean County College was approved to offer the third year of a four-year degree program.
- Managed the successful deployment of numerous grants, including a \$2.5 million grant for Title III and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant for Open Educational Resources. Led to the creation of new OER resources.
- Partnered with Director of K-12 programs at Ocean County College to establish Faculty Development Institute. 10 new programs were established for teachers in Ocean County.
- Volunteered for statewide academic affairs affinity group. Selected as Chair in 2022.
- Implemented multiple measures program leading to increases for new student enrollment.
- Received Aspen Institute Recognition for Top 150 college in 2021 and 2023.
- Established new funding to support the expansion of academic tutoring services. Implemented new artificial intelligence tools to expand student support.

E-learning

- Supervised the development effort for a new student success framework. Framework was expanded for developing consistent student success services on campus in various modalities.

Senior Aide

- Managed the development of a project plan for a fundraising campaign to construct a new building for sailing programs at the college. Led to an increase of more than \$500k in donations to the college.

DeVRY UNIVERSITY, North Brunswick, NJ

2010-2016

DeVry University is a for-profit educational institution with campuses located across the United States. DeVry University's academic offerings are organized into five colleges: The College of Business & Management; The College of Engineering & Information Sciences; The College of Health Sciences; The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; The College of Media Arts & Technology. The colleges offer a range of associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree programs along with graduate certificates.

Dean of Academic Affairs (2010-2016)

Provided executive and academic leadership across three campuses with an annual operating budget of \$5M. Managed and delivered e-learning and campus-based educational and academic support programs. Organized, supervised, and directed approximately 250 full-time and part-time professional staff to ensure curricula was current and consistently delivered. Planned and coordinated activities with various departments to ensure success in all operational aspects. Represented DeVry University for statewide events and activities, including the New Jersey Presidents' Council.

Accomplishments:

- Provided strategic leadership and supervision in the development of a strategic plan for Academic Affairs.
- Led the academic teams for developing new curricula in areas of business, healthcare, and technology management.
- Managed, evaluated, and developed staff responsible for delivering new content in the e-learning, hybrid, and face-to-face modalities.
- Established the Faculty Center for Excellence for three New Jersey campuses. Partnered with faculty in developing new models for professional development.
- Worked closely with the Dean of Student Affairs in planning and implementing demand-based academic scheduling.
- Improved graduate and undergraduate annual retention goals by creating cross-functional and first-term initiatives. New Jersey academic group consistently ranked in top 20 for DeVry University based upon highest retention score.
- Increased articulation agreements with community colleges to promote additional transfer opportunities for students.
- Supported the re-licensure project team responsible for receiving 5-year approval to offer degree programs in New Jersey.
- Supervised the re-accreditation process for the Higher Learning Commission and other programmatic accrediting bodies. Recognized for developing best practice in academic quality reviews.
- Established new culture of operational excellence by implementing monthly leadership council meetings with professional staff.
- Obtained approval for new program offerings by fostering relationships with New Jersey State Department of Education and Executive Director.
- Implemented new technology classroom model for teaching and learning to host courses for various campuses throughout the United States.

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) was a state-run health sciences institution located in New Jersey. It had eight distinct academic units that formed an academic health sciences center. The population included approximately 7,000 students in more than 100 degree and certificate programs and more than 13,000 employees, including nearly 2,500 faculty members. The University was dedicated to excellence in education, conducting research, and delivering healthcare.

Director of Business Systems and Technology

Reported to the Vice President of Information Technology (IT) and assigned to business applications and systems. Managed group of 5 direct reports and 25 additional unionized staff with an operating budget of approximately \$3.5M. Supervised Ellucian contract for managed services consisting of 10 staff. Provided strong portfolio management approach to prioritize projects. Developed effective collaborative relationships with multiple operating units within the university.

Accomplishments:

- Established new unit for business systems and application development within existing information technology organization.
- Developed professional development program for key information technology staff.
- Created ranking system for project implementations by developing and implementing new project management methodology.
- Supported large-scale technology implementations as selected member of purchasing review committee managed by the University President's Chief of Staff.
- Managed large outsourcing contract within university for projects related to student information systems design and development.
- Established new technology group, in collaboration with the Vice President of Research, to support the research system infrastructure.
- Supervised grievance process and responded to issues for unionized staff.
- Reduced turnaround time 60% by leading business process redesign effort for provisioning new student accounts.
- Implemented open-source course management system by supervising transition and change management effort.

Dean of Information Technology (2000-2005)

Reported to the local campus president for New Jersey. Provided direction by developing and implementing technology strategic plan. Managed approximately 35 part-time and full-time staff. Guided development of multiple projects by setting specific criteria and then measuring against set of established metrics.

Accomplishments:

- Provided automated access to student portal by implementing new student information system and change management program.
- Improved course outcomes in collaboration with faculty by designing a teaching and learning center in New Jersey. The center was the first dedicated space for improving pedagogy within the DeVry University system.
- Reduced NJ campus network access costs 15% by managing design and implementation of first wireless campus within DeVry University.
- Increased technical capacity of campus by creating technical support program for students to increase role of student workers on campus.

- Developed new tutoring system for tracking first term student progress in partnership with Panasonic Corporation.

Professor (1995-2000)

Developed and taught courses in Business and Information Systems. This included both the standard classroom delivery as well as the e-learning format. The curriculum for the courses was based upon developing trends in technology and business.

Accomplishments:

- Served as Chair for the telecommunications' department for two years.
- Developed curriculum leading to NJ state approval for baccalaureate degree programs.
- Created course content for several business and technology programs.
- Assisted in the transition for two course management platforms.
- Sponsored corporate advisory board sessions to seek and implement changes in curriculum.
- Served as Chair for the telecommunications' management group.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Business Administration

Concentration in Organizational Leadership

Northcentral University, Scottsdale, AZ

Masters of Science (MS), Information Systems

New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

Masters of Business Administration (MBA)

Concentration in Management Information Systems

St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

Konopka, J. (2016). *A Quantitative Study of the Efficacy of Distributed Leadership Environments and Project Completion* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Central; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (Order No. 10250815)

Unleash Physical Limitations: Virtual Emergency Preparedness Planning Simulation Training, Methodology and a Case Study by Xiang Yao, Joseph A. Konopka, Arthur H. Hendela, Michael Chumer, and Murray Turoff; 11th Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) 2005, Omaha, Nebraska.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “How Equitable Access Models Drive Streamlined Faculty Adoption & Student Affordability”, American Council on Education (ACE) 2021 Annual Conference, Presented by Bob Gregerson, President, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Dr. Joe Konopka, PhD, V.P. of Academic Affairs, Ocean County College Ken Wincko, V.P. of Marketing, Barnes & Noble College and Christopher Sackett, V.P. of Academic Solutions, Barnes & Noble College
- “How Integrated Planning and Partnerships Drive Engaged, Innovative Learning Enterprises”, Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) 2019 Annual Conference, Presented by Dr. Joel S. Bloom, Dr. Joseph E. Gilmour, Dr. Joseph Konopka, July 2019.
- “Scaffolding to Success: Student-Centered College & Career Course Charting”, Colloquium, Ocean County College, NJ, August 2018.
- “Strategic Vision and Planning”, Colloquium, Ocean County College, NJ, January 2018.
- “Brand Management”, Ocean County College, NJ, 2017-2018.
- “Leadership Theory for Educators”, Summer Program, St. Peter’s University, NJ, July 2016 & July 2017.
- “Distributed Leadership Theory”, Regional Deans’ Meeting, DeVry University, 2014.
- “Collaborative Partnerships”, Faculty Symposium, DeVry University, 2011.
- “Developing Employer Relationships”, Faculty Symposium, DeVry University, 1999.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

- NJ Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC)
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
- The League for Innovation in the Community College
- National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE)
- NJ-SIM (Society for Information Management)
- AIS (Association for Information Systems)
- ACM (Association for Computer Machinery)
- IEEE Computer Society (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)

COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER

- NJ Affinity Group for Academic Vice Presidents, Vice Chair, 2021-Present
- NJ Pathways Program, 2021-Present
- Centers for Workforce Innovation, 2021-Present
- Perkins Program Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (CTE), 2021-Present
- NJ Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Workforce Committee, 2021-Present
- Middle States Reaccreditation Committee, 2020-Present
- NJ Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC), 2017-Present
- Guiding Coalition, Ocean County College, 2017-Present
- College Senate, Ocean County College, 2017-Present
- Academic Standards Committee, 2017-Present
- Curriculum Committee, 2017-Present
- Instruction Committee, 2017-Present
- Honorary Commander for the 108th Maintenance Division for the NJ National Guard, 2017
- NJ education consortium (NJEDge), 2010-2016
- NJ Junior Achievement program, 2010-2016

- NJ Chief Information Officer (CIO) working group for NJ education consortium (NJEDge), 2005
- NJ Technology Council Chief Information Officer (CIO) board, 2003-2005
- Co-Chair for Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS), Birds of a Feather (BOF) session, 2004
- Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) reviewer, 2004
- Distance Learning Advisory Board for NJ education consortium (NJEDge), 2003
- Session Chair for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Conference on Communications, 1999
- Telecommunications' Advisory Board for DeVry Institute, 1997-1999

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Ocean County Workforce Development Board
- Monmouth Ocean Development Council (MODC)
- Infinity Spark Innovation Lab, McGuire Air Force Base
- Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce

AWARDS

DEVRY UNIVERSITY, North Brunswick, NJ

- Local TEACH award recipient, 2012
- National Presidential award recipient, 2002 and 2004
- Elected for Who's Who Among American Teachers, 1998
- Elected for DeVry Institute Ambassador Program, 1997