

Biography

Dr. Lynn D. Akey, Ph.D., is an engaged leader committed to educational excellence and student-focused success. Her broad knowledge of higher education has been shaped by administrative appointments, professional engagement, and educational experiences that cross several sectors of the higher education landscape over the past 25 years. Her passion for higher education centers on the power of education to transform lives, our communities, and, by extension, our world.

As the founding Vice President for the Division of Student Success, Analytics and Integrated Planning at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Dr. Akey leads with expertise in strategic and integrated planning; student enrollment, development, and success; financial sustainability and resource management; analytics and data-informed decision making; and assessment of student learning and accreditation. With her vision and leadership, the University has advanced a comprehensive student-focused approach to student success, increasing student enrollment, retention, and completion and decreasing success gaps for historically underserved populations. Before her current role, Dr. Akey held administrative appointments in Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

Professional engagement for Dr. Akey is longstanding at the national, regional, and local levels. Dr. Akey has served on the Board of Directors for the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP), completing two elected terms as Board Chair. In addition, she has served SCUP as an integrated planning coach and facilitator for the Planning Institute. She has been a member of the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Corps since 2014 and served as an evaluator for the Performance Excellence Network focused on helping organizations improve results, facilitate innovation, sustain operations, and reach higher levels of excellence. Within the local community, Dr. Akey enjoys professional service with Visit Mankato of Greater Mankato Growth and as a Board member for the American Red Cross and Voluntary Interfaith Network Effort.

Recognized as a higher education leader, Dr. Akey has provided consultation for universities, community and technical colleges, and service within the Minnesota State system in academic and student affairs, data governance, integrated planning, and analytics. Just recently, she led workshops with Vice Chancellors from 13 public higher education institutions focused on advancing the capacity of Pakistan's higher education institutions and systems to develop employable graduates.

Dr. Akey earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota, her Master of Arts degree in College Student Personnel at Bowling Green State University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at Truman State University.