

Manuel Gomez, Ph.D.



As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Manuel Gomez was empowered by his educational experiences, and is inspired by the opportunity to serve the communities and institutions that have allowed him to bring the democratizing agency of higher education to life.

Dr. Gomez believes that education enriches and improves the lives of students and the community; his focus on collaboration, clear sense of leadership, and experience with diverse higher education stakeholders have prepared him to communicate effectively and collaborate with diverse stakeholders.

His progressive leadership experience in higher education includes a plethora of fiscal management acumen and strong communication and relationship building skills. This entailed having intimate knowledge of college operations, mechanics of teaching and learning, liaison to community stakeholders, fine points of resource management, and the internal systems of academic and student affairs departments.

His experience includes oversight as campus chief executive officer, chief academic officer, associate provost with oversight over student and academic affairs, director of education and training and the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning (Higher Learning Commission), dean, director, and coordinator of programs and services; and has worked with high school counselors, instructors, parent groups and principals, rotary groups, community boards, action councils, and alumni.

As an educator since 1996, Dr. Gomez has taught at four community colleges, a public university, and a private four-year institution. His combined teaching experience is the equivalent of 8.2 years of full-time teaching.

At the university level, Dr. Gomez has taught Spanish across the curriculum and film in the humanities. At the community college level, Dr. Gomez has taught courses in Spanish, humanities, history, and leadership.

His first objective is always to positively impact student learning and cultures of personal and professional engagement that value individual students and the professionals that make their success an everyday reality.

He believes diversity leads to creativity, innovation, and competitiveness necessary to foster individual and institutional excellence.

Dr. Gomez earned his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and completed post-doctoral work in community college leadership at the University of Texas, Austin.