

Mickey D. Best, Ph.D.

Mickey D. Best, Ph.D., began his career in higher education as a full-time faculty member. He is the Founding Director of the performing arts department at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs and designed the college's Watson Hall Theatre. In his first year, he wrote all curriculum of a new associate degree emphasis in performing arts and technical production. In his second year, he was asked by his colleagues to simultaneously serve as Department Chair for Arts and Humanities and additionally served as Vice President of the Faculty Senate. After his appointment as Professor and department chair, he applied for and attained the position of Dean of Arts and Sciences at the institution supervising 46 full-time faculty. He subsequently accepted the position of Executive Dean of Liberal Arts for the Dallas County Community College District at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Texas. There he participated in preparations for accreditation reaffirmation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and formed the Developmental and Transitional Education Advisory Committee to assist faculty and staff in their work with underprepared students. He next served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado where he represented the college as liaison to the state higher education department and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). He co-authored the Assurance Argument leading to accreditation reaffirmation and also worked closely with the institution's Faculty Senate in redesigning the annual Faculty Development and Evaluation Plan. He currently serves as Campus President at the branch campus of New Mexico State University at Grants where he has successfully allocated new recurring and nonrecurring funding from the New Mexico state legislature in support of reestablishing the institutional Correctional Officer Training Academy (COTA), increased funding for Career Technical Education, and the formation of a new Student Veteran's Resource Center on the campus.