Anthony "Tony" Benoit has worked in higher education for more than 25 years. He's a passionate advocate for students; a teller of true stories; an experienced teacher with deep respect for faculty; a skilled fundraiser; and a sharp analyst of academic, financial, and operational data. He values how education prepares people to thrive economically, and he loves how the arts, humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields challenge and prepare students to communicate, to create, to think, and to understand themselves and others.

In the 1990s, he owned an environmental testing and consulting business and became frustrated by the lack of workers across his industry. To close this gap, he began teaching at Thames Valley State Technical College and created a variety of career-oriented curricula in environmental technology. Thames Valley became Three Rivers Community College, and Benoit sold his company. He broadened his focus to technical fields more generally and supported students, workers, and businesses in a variety of roles in Connecticut's Community Technical College System. He went to Boston in 2011 to serve as the chief academic officer at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT; recently renamed Franklin Cummings Tech) then led the college as President for eight years. BFIT served primarily low-income residents from greater Boston who graduated into middle-class jobs. He collaborated with the college's faculty, staff, and other stakeholders to create a strategy through which the institution grew its enrollment by 20 percent from 2013 to 2020 and secured several grants of a million dollars or more along with many five- and six-figure grants. Since leaving Franklin Cummings Tech he has worked with the City of Boston, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, and other clients, facilitating communication among employers, community groups, and educators and helping to grow pathways for ordinary folks into good jobs in science, technology, and other fields. Benoit seeks to improve equity and opportunity by cultivating ways for individuals to manifest their talent, embrace their role in civil society, and prepare for lifelong learning.

Benoit earned a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, master's degrees in Psychology and Environmental Engineering, and a doctorate in Education, with research on how agency and choice empower students to succeed.