

## Michael Rooke, Ph.D. - Biographical Statement

Dr. Rooke has served within the Connecticut Community Colleges for close to twenty years, working at the Manchester, Tunxis and Northwestern campuses.

He has served as President of Connecticut State - Northwestern for close to ten years, helping the campus navigate the transformation from Northwestern CT Community College to CT State Northwestern. He also served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Tunxis Community College (2009-2015) and before that as Division Director, Business & Technology Division, Manchester Community College (2006-2009).



In May 2020, the former CT State Colleges & Universities Chancellor Mark Ojakian invited Dr. Rooke to serve dual roles as interim Provost and Vice-President Academic Affairs of the newly merged Connecticut State Community College, in addition to being Northwestern president. In January 2022, Dr. Rooke stepped into the role of interim president of CT State Community College and subsequently returned fully to Northwestern in June 2022 after securing a favorable review by the NECHE Commission of the CT State substantive change application.

Dr. Rooke's career has been focused on ensuring that all CT students have access to a world-class education, regardless of their personal circumstances and background and has been a lifelong champion for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Some of his most important accomplishments include successfully advocating for free community college tuition to the CT general assembly, establishing a student emergency fund at Northwestern, creating a peer mentoring program for all Northwestern students, leading the establishment of a common academic calendar across all CT state universities and community colleges and had a leadership role in the revision of developmental English and Math education policy across the CT community colleges and many other policy initiatives that improve the lives of community college students.

Dr. Rooke started his career as an assistant professor and associate professor of chemistry at the University of Hartford (1996-2003) and later as Director of Information Technology, as well as assistant director of instructional technology at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, (2003-2006).

Dr. Rooke serves on the board of directors of the Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce, the Torrington/Winsted Rotary board of directors, the board of the American Mural Project, as a corporator of Hartford Healthcare's Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and the Northwest CT Regional Workforce Investment Board. As president of the Northwestern campus, he works closely alongside the college's foundation and is an *ex officio* member of the board.

He holds a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Kansas State University, a M.S. degree in educational technology from Long Island University and a B.Sc. (with Hons) in applied chemistry from Nottingham Trent University, UK.