



Glendale Community College
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**Dr. Michael Ritterbrown of Glendale Community College Selected for the
Aspen Institute’s Rising Presidents Fellowship**

*One of 35 Leaders Selected for Prestigious Program Developing the
Next Generation of Community College Leaders*

Glendale, CA –

Dr. Michael Ritterbrown, Vice President of Instructional Services at Glendale Community College, has been selected for this year's Aspen Institute’s Rising Presidents Fellowship. He is one of 35 leaders selected for the 2023-24 Fellowship class. This program, delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, prepares the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

The fellows, selected through a competitive process, will work closely with highly accomplished community college presidents, Aspen leaders, and Stanford University faculty over ten months to learn from field-leading research, define and assess student success at their colleges, and clarify their visions for excellent and equitable outcomes for students while in college and after they graduate.

“Each cohort of the Rising Presidents Fellowship is different,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program. “And what they all share is a passion to advance excellence and equity in student outcomes and the commitment to ensure that the colleges they lead continuously improve.”

Dr. Ritterbrown’s doctoral studies focused on theories of change management and organizational structure, educational law and policy, and student success through high-impact instructional practice. Most recently, his focus has shifted to the implementation of change leading to equitable institutional and classroom practice. It is his belief that equity forms the foundation for student success, and that educational research has provided a clear framework to build successful programs and services. He believes collaborative decision making among all areas of the college is necessary to implement this framework, and that a structure based on equity requires fundamental change in the ways we approach instruction and student service. To further these goals, he has worked with others to restructure the college’s strategic plan and revise its mission, focusing on the implementation of Guided Pathways, active learning leading to applied knowledge, authentic assessment of learning, and restructuring and refocusing professional development.

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner

Board of Trustees Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford

Dr. Ritterbrown holds a BFA in Theater from University of Southern California, an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College, and an Ed.D in Community College Leadership from California State University Northridge.

“This is an amazing opportunity to work with and learn from other community college educators from across the nation. I am grateful to GCC Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Corner for nominating me, and I believe that the perspective and knowledge I gain from the experience will benefit GCC and our students,” said Dr. Ritterbrown.

Rising Presidents Fellows aspire to enter a college presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. As fellows, they join a network of over 300 forward-thinking peers—155 of whom are sitting college presidents—who are applying grounded and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their colleges.

For information on the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship go to <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/risingpresidents/>

About Glendale Community College

Nestled on a lush hillside in Glendale, California, GCC has served the greater LA Metro region for 95 years. With its smaller, intimate classes, coupled with a dedicated team of instructors, counselors, and staff, the college offers a low cost, high-quality educational experience. GCC has one of the top transfer rates in Los Angeles County due to its commitment to equality, innovation, and an ethic of care for its students. GCC’s three campuses are equipped for in-person and online courses providing students with multiple options for pursuing valuable workforce training, professional development, and lifelong learning.