

Ali (Alyssa) O'Brien

College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL ♦ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY, <i>Chicago, IL</i>	June 2012
Doctor of Education, Community College Leadership	
Dissertation: <i>Expectations of Improved Student Learning: General Education Assessment in AQIP Community Colleges</i>	
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY, <i>Chicago, IL</i>	March 2008
Master of Education, Curriculum Studies	
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, <i>DeKalb, IL</i>	May 2000
Bachelor of Arts, Art History	
KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, <i>Malta, IL</i>	August 1997
Associate in Arts	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, <i>Grayslake, IL</i>	June 2017 – present
Interim Provost, Educational Affairs	
Major Areas of Responsibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve as the Chief Academic Officer which includes supporting curriculum updates and enhancements to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB); being accountable for the full time faculty and adjunct faculty Collective Bargaining Agreements and relationships with the unions; and, ensuring compliance with academic policies set forth by the Higher Learning Commission, ICCB, and CLC Board of Trustees.• Guide the academic units of the college through supervision of Deans in Adult Education & ESL; Biological & Health Sciences; Business & Social Sciences; Communication Arts, Humanities & Fine Arts; Engineering, Math & Physical Sciences; and Library, Testing & Academic Success.• Provide executive level leadership for the Southlake Campus through supervision of the Dean. Advocate for continuity of services at branch campuses and monitor critical threats and opportunities at branch campuses.• Serve on the President's Executive Staff and President's Cabinet. Responsible for initiating and monitoring academic related Board of Trustees' issues, contributing to institution level human resource decisions, and representing academic units during emergency management events.• Lead Provost's Council with the Interim Provost for Student Development by setting academic and student development priorities, overseeing policy and procedure implementation, and identifying opportunities for efficiencies across the academic and student development units.• Resolve student academic concern appeals by providing due process, comprehensive research of the situation, and timely resolution.• Monitor progress of the Student Academic Success Plan. Find synergies with other CLC operating plans to ensure stewardship and alignment of resources. Support and foster innovative approaches to significant academic challenges.• Direct the work of the High School Alliance which is comprised of 11 Lake County superintendents and key college personnel. Establish relevant data sharing agreements, update strategic goals and objectives with the group, and foster curriculum alignment activities between college faculty and high school instructors.• Provide direct supervision for 12 employees across various employee groups including classified, specialist, administrative, and faculty. Indirectly responsible for a down-line of approximately 210 staff, 213 full time faculty, and 800 adjunct faculty.• Continue to be responsible for designated Assistant Vice President duties such as leadership of the Teaching, Learning and Educational Technology Center; Assessment of Student Learning Committee; Education Work Experience curriculum; and, Workforce & Innovation Opportunities Act agreements.	

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Seated member of the President's Executive Staff (effective 2016) and President's Cabinet (effective 2014). Responsible for contributing to institution level strategic planning, collaborating on policy decisions, and leading discussions on student academic success initiatives.
- Provided executive level leadership for newly created Library, Testing and Academic Success division intended to directly influence persistence, retention, and completion. Identified and monitored performance measures to align successful elements with needed resources for the three departments within the unit. Analyzed policy implications related to developmental education and recommended cross-disciplinary solutions supported through new division.
- Guided strategic planning and accountability for College Readiness and Dual Credit. Established priorities for related outreach efforts to high schools. Determined how to scale efforts in order to meet district needs and influence key performance indicators of college strategic plan.
- Supervised the Teaching, Learning and Educational Technology Center which holds responsibility for faculty professional development, educational technology implementation, online education, and BlackBoard learning management systems. Directly managed full time faculty responsible for CLC Learning Outcomes assessment and academic improvement planning.
- Oversaw academic program evaluation processes and lead administrative efforts for institution level learning outcomes assessment. Convener and administrative lead for the Academic Department Review Committee and the Assessment of Student Learning Committee. Liaised to Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) for program evaluation requirements.
- Developed and monitored budgets for Instructional Equipment, Student Success Initiatives, and the Educational Affairs office totaling approximately \$2.88 million. Member of the executive level budget team. Coordinated all budgets for the Educational Affairs Division totaling \$54 million and contributed to capital outlay decisions for the entire institution.
- Provided direction for, and oversight of, select federal and state grants. Grant management responsibilities have included Postsecondary Perkins (\$400K annually), Department of Labor TAACCCT (\$918K total), AACC The Right Signals (\$60K total), ICCB Program Improvement Grant (\$40K annually), ICCB Innovations Grant (\$50K annually), ICCB Regional Network Grant (\$100K total), Illinois Green Economy Network (\$177K total).
- Seated member of the Provost's Council which includes academic and student development deans, campus deans, assistant/associate vice presidents and Provost. Contributed to institution-wide decisions and recommendations based on stakeholder needs and interests.
- Provided direct supervision for seven employees across various employee groups including classified, specialist, administrative, and faculty. Indirectly responsible for a down-line of approximately 160 staff.
- Collaborated with faculty members on Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum, College Prep Council, and Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) committees.

Accomplishments

- ❖ Launched new CLC Employer Partnership Program in 2017 to recognize engaged businesses and encourage higher level support through tiered recognition levels (bronze, silver, gold). Inaugural awards were presented to 25 local employers.
- ❖ Leveraged Career Advisory Committees in 2016 and 2017 for input to shape CLC Learning Outcomes, new curriculum related to job readiness, and relevance of co-curricular transcripts. Unique approach to engaging external stakeholders on elements for which they previously did not directly impact.
- ❖ Transitioned new program, Coaching for Academic Success, out of pilot stage through to full implementation. Effective Fall 2014 all enrolled development education students (3,200) were assigned an academic coach who served as a case manager. 100% of dev ed faculty were trained on the academic coaching approach/philosophy and how to use early alert software.

- ❖ Launched new Assessment of Student Learning Committee with faculty leadership during Fall 2014 and function as co-chair. Serve as administrative decision maker for parameters of assessment projects and identification of resources to support assessment efforts.
- ❖ Selected in 2013 for long term commitment to support components of the \$148M Sustainable Master Plan. Co-chair for Master Plan Classroom Committee and Member, Master Plan Implementation Committee. Invited as an advisor for Student Development Redesign Committee.
- ❖ Provided leadership to, and management of, the Athletics Department from April 2012 to December 2012. Served as Interim Athletic Director and guided institution through a probationary and mandatory audit period with the NJCAA.
- ❖ Led re-design of data sets included in academic program evaluation to include equity factors such as age and ethnicity in an effort to ensure student success measures were being reviewed across all student groups.
- ❖ Key Performance Indicators for Strategic Plan indicated CLC below peers for transfer rates. Selected in 2013 as Co-chair for Academic Quality Improvement Program project team, Student Transfer Initiative, to lead research and make recommendations to improve the student transfer experience.
- ❖ In support of strategic goal for sustainability, facilitated completion of the Green Genome institutional self-assessment published by AACC. Co-chair for Environmental Action Committee (through August 2014) and Chair of subcommittee, Sustainability Curriculum (through August 2014).

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, *Grayslake, IL*

Interim Assistant Vice President for Workforce Education

March 2008 – May 2011

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Oversaw academic program evaluation processes and participated in coordination for general education learning outcomes assessment efforts. Convener and administrative lead for the Assessment and Program Evaluation Committee. Liaison to ICCB for program evaluation requirements.
- Developed and monitored budgets for Instructional Equipment and the Educational Affairs office totaling approximately \$2.25 million. Member of the executive level budget team. Coordinated all budgets for the Educational Affairs Division totaling \$40 million and contributed to capital outlay decisions for the entire institution.
- Provided direction for, and oversight of, federal and state grants totaling \$930,000 (Student Success Grant, Postsecondary Perkins, Partnerships for College and Career Success, Program Improvement Grant, ICCB Innovations Grant, ICCB Programs of Study Implementation Grant, Illinois Green Economy Network).
- Led and supervised CLC's Sustainability Center and Green Economy Center. Initiated programs and processes which integrated sustainability in to the curriculum. Convened and managed the Community Partners for Sustainability in Lake County. Oversaw the development of CLC's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.
- Maintained relationships with external stakeholders related to workforce and economic development to ensure college was represented in local decisions and efforts. Maintained consistent relationships with chambers of commerce throughout the county.
- Seated member of the Educational Affairs Council which includes the academic deans, campus deans, assistant vice presidents and vice president. Contributed to institution-wide decisions and recommendations based on stakeholder needs and interests.
- Directly supervised one administrator, four specialist staff members, one classified staff member, and a consultant.
- Collaborated with faculty members on particular initiatives such as the Assessment & Program Evaluation Committee, Partnership for College & Career Success grant, and Academic Quality Improvement Program committees.

Accomplishments

- ❖ Led redesign of program evaluation process that highlighted assessment expectations; increased transparency by overseeing development of an online environment connecting three functions – program evaluation, assessment, and annual updates; and, created review teams that directly support faculty engaged in a review. Initiated annual summer workshop to realize continuous improvement practices for program evaluation processes.

- ❖ Awarded FY11 ICCB Program of Study grant in based on a successful application that included a collaboration with the Lake County High Schools Technology Campus. Invited to present at ICCB Forum for Excellence based on strength of application.
- ❖ Created new process to guide collection of grant activities for career and technical programs allowing faculty and deans to proactively contribute to grant applications.
- ❖ Managed first sustainability conference held at CLC – GreenTown Lake County. Attendance between pre-conference sessions, president’s reception, main conference, and post-conference workshop topping 250 participants.
- ❖ Chaired Academic Quality Improvement Program projects including Foundations of Excellence Implementation Plan and Sustainability/Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, *Grayslake, IL*

January 2006 – February 2008

Assistant Director for Educational Affairs Operations

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Facilitated project management efforts for building and remodeling projects to represent Educational Affairs perspective. Supervised efforts related to functional coordination of technical applications for room and facility scheduling (Resource 25 and TMA). Coordinated and sat on the Educational Affairs Council. Worked closely with deans and divisions on human resource related issues. Interpreted full-time faculty contract issues with the Vice President and implemented processes for a new adjunct faculty contract.

Accomplishments

- ❖ Appointed as the Foundations of Excellence (FoE) co-liaison for national self-study project. Managed 130 member task force split in to nine teams. Based on strength of connecting FoE to AQIP, selected to present with Dr. John Gardner at Higher Learning Commission annual conference.
- ❖ Selected for the institutional team that attended the AQIP Strategy Forum focused on formulating strategies for improvement, learning from our systems appraisal, and defining the quality infrastructure of CLC.
- ❖ Supported final design decisions to ensure faculty and division needs were met for the 2007 completion of the new Southlake Campus building where square footage tripled the instructional space available.

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, *Grayslake, IL*

January 2004 – January 2006

Assistant to the Vice President for Educational Affairs

- Coordinated and supervised room scheduling practices for the campus. Oversaw development of the class schedules for credit and non-credit courses. Managed budget development and monitored efforts across all academic divisions and departments reporting to the Vice President. Created board related items out of the Educational Affairs area. Acted in the capacity of office manager for the core Educational Affairs team.

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, *Grayslake, IL*

January 2002 – January 2004

Program Coordinator, Continuing Education

- Controlled coordination of Adult Continuing Education courses, specifically vocational training, professional development, and youth recreational courses. Responsibilities included finalizing course schedules, tracking room reservations and program budgets, and reviewing course evaluations for performance evaluation and course enhancement purposes.

UNEXT, *Deerfield, IL*

2000 - 2002

Project Manager

- Managed the online MBA course development process from definition through commercial release. Responsibilities included quality review of learning outcomes, project plan tracking and relationship management with internal functional areas and outsourced customer service provider. Facilitated development of faculty training and delivery documents. Designed course assessment tools and evaluation rubrics for problem-based learning courses.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE CENTER FOR EDUCATION, *Sycamore, IL* 1998 – 2000
 Program Development Manager

- Established administrative procedures for major phases of training programs and office operations that included recruitment of students, orientation, individual course delivery, graduation and job placement. Managed adjunct faculty group of 20 and center staff of three.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE CENTER FOR EDUCATION, *Sycamore, IL* 1996 – 1998
 Program Development Coordinator

- Assisted with renewal process to academic accrediting bodies and the Illinois State Board of Education. Maintained advertising accounts and designed all print advertisements, web site content and wrote press releases for local publications.

WORLD MARKETING ALLIANCE, *OakBrook, IL* 1995 - 1997
 Office Manager

- Developed and implemented office procedures for new branch office while complying with home office standards and interacting with insurance and mutual fund companies. Obtained and upheld professional licenses with the National Association of Securities Dealers (Series 6 & Series 63) and the State of Illinois (Life Insurance).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Illinois Community College Chief Academic Officers Council	2017 - Present
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Institute for Educational Management	2015
Board Member, Lake County Workforce Development Board	2012 - 2016
Member, Association for Career and Technical Education	2010 - Present
Member, Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education	2010 - Present
Founding Member, Midwest First Year Conference Committee	2008 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Evaluation Committee (2008 – present) Chair, Registration Committee (2012 – present) 	
Member, National Career Pathways Network	2008 - 2016
Board Member, Nicasa Board of Directors	2007 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit focused on substance abuse prevention and treatment; promotion of healthy lifestyles through advocacy, training, and education programming. Chair, Resource Development Committee (2013 – present) Secretary, Executive Committee (2015 – present) 	
Member, American Association for Women in Community Colleges	2004 - 2015
Member, Illinois Community College Board Program Advisory Committee	2009
Task Force Liaison, Foundations of Excellence Project	2007 - 2008
CLC Team Member, Higher Learning Commission AQIP Strategy Forum	2007, 2016
Selected Participant, National Institute for Leadership Development – LEADERS Program	2005
Member, CLC Facilities Use and Planning Commission	2004 - 2008
Member, Northern Prairie Center for Education Advisory Council	2000 – 2007

PRESENTATIONS

“Evaluation and Credentialing” – The 1st China-U.S. Applied and Technical Education Exchange Forum, June 2016, Beijing, China

“Understanding the Key Elements of a Best Practice Applied Learning Education Organization: CLC Case Study” - The 1st China-U.S. Applied and Technical Education Exchange Forum, June 2016, Beijing, China

“Instructional Design – Changing the Curriculum” – The 1st China-U.S. Applied and Technical Education Exchange Forum, June 2016, Beijing, China

“Applied Learning Transformation in the New Tech Revolution” - The 1st China-U.S. Applied and Technical Education Exchange Forum, June 2016, Beijing, China (with Junfeng, Shigang, Dumont, Hubbs, and Scales)

“Education as the Hub of Local Economics Ecosystem – Case Study: IGEN and Sustainability” – The 1st China-U.S. Applied and Technical Education Exchange Forum, June 2016, Beijing, China

“Building Bridges to Student Academic Success” – American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention, April 2016, Chicago, IL (with Woltmann)

“Program Development as a Journey” – Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference (invited for Leadership Cohort Track), November 2015, Normal, IL

“Jump Start: A Community College Summer Bridge Program in Math and English” – Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference, November 2015, Normal, IL

“CLC: A Local Perspective on High School to College Transitions” – Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science Health Sector Academy, October 2015, North Chicago, IL

“Program Review + Equity Outcomes Data = Engaged Faculty!” - ICCB Forum for Excellence, September 2015, Normal, IL

“Lake County Workforce Ecosystem” – College of Lake County Career Advisory Annual Event, April 2015, Grayslake, IL (with Considine and Serino)

“Program Development as a Journey” – Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference (invited for Leadership Cohort Track), November 2014, Schaumburg, IL

“Jump Start: A Community College Summer Bridge Program in Math and English” – Midwest First Year Conference, September 2014, Sugar Grove, IL

“Sustainability of Pathways to Results” – Scaling Up Pathways to Results, March 2014, Champaign, IL (remote video presentation with Howerter and Dietrich)

“Illinois’ Regional Network Approach to Professional Development: Raising the Bar” - Career Clusters Institute, June 2013, Fort Worth, TX (with Julian and Morelock)

“Green Funds 1.0: Getting a Fund Started” – AASHE Annual Conference, October 2012, Los Angeles, CA (with Jones, Patterson, and Walsh)

“Green Funds at Community Colleges: Unique Approaches to Engaging Students” - AASHE Annual Conference, October 2012, Los Angeles, CA (with Clark, Criner, and Morrison)

“Measuring Sustainability Performance with STARS” – AACC Annual Convention, April 2012, Orlando, FL (with Petee and Zahniser)

“Academic Department Review at CLC: Leveraging a College Process to Implement POS and PTR” – ICCB Forum for Excellence, September 2012, Springfield, IL

“Expectations of Improved Student Learning: General Education Assessment in AQIP Community Colleges” - Innovation and Change in the Community College: Research to Practice, May 2012, Chicago, IL

“Intranet Based Tools for Department Review and Assessment” - Community College Assessment Fair, February 2011, Normal, IL (with David)

“Effective Practices from Pathways to Results” – ICCB Forum for Excellence, September 2010, Springfield, IL (with Glosser, Machon, and Muertz)

“IAIR Best Paper: Going Green: Identifying, Projecting, and Planning for Green Jobs in the New Economy” – Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum, June 2010, Chicago, IL (with Lombardi and Santos-George)

“Establishing Mentoring Relationships for Success” – AAWCC Leadership Conference, February 2010, Grayslake, IL (with Pollard)

“A Compelling Action-Project Option to Improve New Student Success” – Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting: AQIP Colloquium, April 2009, Chicago, IL (with Brown, Gardner, and Li)

“FoE and Reaccreditation: A Successful Marriage or Strange Bedfellows” – Foundations of Excellence Winter Meeting, February 2009, Orlando, FL (with Andersen, Backstrom, Chatham-Carpenter, and Griffen)

“Science Olympiad and the Community College” - Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference, November 2008, Decatur, IL (with McHugh)

“Foundations of Excellence® Self-Study: Connecting AQIP with this First Year Student Initiative” - Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference, November 2008, Decatur, IL (with Anastasio)

“Shared Governance Communication Systems: Implementation of Recommendations Resulting from an AQIP Project” - Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference, November 2008, Decatur, IL (with Chandy)

“Foundations of Excellence” – First Year Experience Midwest Drive-in Conference: Strengthening the First Year of College, October 2008, DeKalb, IL (with McHugh)

“Shared Governance In Action: CLC’s AQIP Project in Review” – Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Annual Conference, November 2007, Decatur, IL (with Pollard)