

2021 ATHENA Recipient

LaCretia Konan



When I first began at Kishwaukee College in November of 2013, I was a professional discovering my place in higher education. My years of service at the college taught me the ins and outs of higher education. Through various promotions, I now serve as the Dean of Workforce & Community Education at Kish. My main responsibility is to lead initiatives, which drive strategic partnerships with businesses and industry leaders to address workforce needs. I lead a team and oversee career services, short-term training, and continuing education programs. Whether it's securing grant funding, establishing partnerships with local businesses to deepen student learning, or running innovative programming for entrepreneurs, my passion and leadership shines through when working with all people. From students to my colleagues to community members, I strive to empower everyone I meet.

One of my greatest joys is helping others—especially women—achieve their goals. As a single mother and a woman making a place for myself in the professional world, I know the unique challenges of women, professionals, and single parents. As my own life has shown me, there is power when a community comes together. My leadership is rooted in the power of the team! I am a transformational leader, who believes in the power of women, people, the community, and education. I am also a servant leader who believes in the power of serving. I do this work because I have been called to, and I will always help in any way I can.

LaCretia holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Elmhurst University and a M.S. in Higher Education Leadership and Administration from Capella University, (graduation with Distinction.)