



DR. CHRISTY DRYER

Vice President, Academic Programs, Cecil College

Cecil College's Vice President for Academic Programs, Christy Dryer, DNP, manages a multi-faceted division, serving as the Chief Academic Officer for Cecil College. Dr. Dryer oversees all of the credit and non-credit educational division, supervising and providing innovative and strategic leadership for deans, directors, department chairs, and faculty, directing development and implementation of strategic and operational plans for Academic Programs that support the College vision and mission, including budget development for Academic Programs in alignment with the College's strategic plan.

Under Dr. Dryer's leadership, the Cybersecurity program achieved NSA recognition, the Visual Communications program created a drone certificate, the Engineering program built upon its partnership with Frostburg University, the Biology department developed a Bioproduction degree with an articulation with Thomas Jefferson University, and the nursing department developed an accelerated Associate of Science in Nursing program. Always working to increase educational opportunities, Dr. Dryer continually develops pathways from beginning skills to higher education, such as a Machine Technician certificate that articulates to an Associate of Science in Engineering and a Laboratory Skills certificate, developed with a grant from NIMLB, that articulates to an Associate of Applied Science in Bioproduction. Increasing access to higher education is a continual focus for Dr. Dryer, and her commitment to student access and retention is a significant part of that work.

Before becoming Vice President for Academic Programs, Dr. Dryer was the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions at Cecil College, where she was responsible for the overall management and supervision of the Associate Degree Nursing program, Licensed Practical Nursing program, non-credit healthcare career programs, Physical Therapist Assistant program, Health, and Physical Education division, and the Fitness and Wellness Center.

Dr. Dryer has been instrumental in developing a consortium of Maryland Community Colleges; namely, the Maryland Education Alliance (MEA). This consortium provides students the ability to seamlessly transfer between schools to obtain optimal professional training that might otherwise be unavailable. Dr. Dryer continues to champion numerous, innovative initiatives resulting in unique partnerships, mentoring, and learning opportunities. Dr. Dryer never hesitates to advocate for community colleges, testifying for the Maryland state legislature, or presenting on various topics for multiple constituencies.

Dr. Dryer currently serves on several boards, including the Christiana Care, Union Hospital Board; the Quality and Safety Committee for Christiana Care; and the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing Board (OADN), where she also is president of the OADN foundation. She is the current chair of the Maryland Council of Community College Chief Academic Officers (M4CAO) and has also served on several

workgroups across the state of Maryland, focused on advancing education, community colleges, and nursing education.

Dr. Dryer earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Maryland after completing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing, with a focus in education, from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware, respectively. She is a licensed Registered Nurse in the State of Delaware and was inducted as a Fellow in the Academy of Associate Degree Nursing.