



Presidential Candidate Matthew Reed, Ph.D.



Dr. Matthew Reed has been the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Brookdale Community College, in New Jersey, since 2015. In that role, he is the chief academic officer for a college of over 10,000 students and 180 full-time faculty, and he manages an instructional budget of over \$30 million. He is the chair of the statewide council of community college CAO's, and is active in general education reform statewide.

At Brookdale he developed the first Academic Master Plan since 2008. Its single focus is the reduction or elimination of student achievement gaps across lines of race, ethnicity, income, and gender. To that end, the activities included in the AMP fall into four main categories: first impressions, barriers in the classroom, acceleration, and student basic needs. Since then, Brookdale has developed and implemented new placement procedures to reduce remediation, expanded the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) across the curriculum, enhanced training in Universal Design for Learning, stationed a bilingual full-time social worker on campus, established a food pantry with a cooperative relationship with Fulfill (the food bank for Monmouth and Ocean counties), and rolled out loaner laptops and parking lot wifi for students with spotty internet access. Dr. Reed also developed, and chairs, the Academic Management Operations Committee (AMOC), which brings together the leadership of academic affairs, student affairs, and continuing education to improve internal communication across silos.

When COVID hit, Dr. Reed headed up the Proactive Pandemic Planning Committee, served as Incident Response Commander, and established a series of open Zoom meetings called "Mondays with Matt" to maintain open communication over the summer.

His community college experience started in 2003, with an appointment as the Division Dean of Liberal Arts at the County College of Morris. In 2008 he accepted the role of Vice President for Academic Affairs at Holyoke Community College, where he served as chief academic officer for seven years. At Holyoke he presided over six consecutive years of improved course completion rates, and he helped establish the Faculty Council to improve internal communication. He has a combined 18 years of experience in community colleges with tenure systems and collective bargaining. At both Holyoke and Brookdale, Dr. Reed successfully increased the diversity of the ranks of both faculty and deans, through a deliberate focus on equitable and fair hiring practices.

Dr. Reed has long been an active presence in the national conversation around community colleges and public policy. His 2013 book, *Confessions of a Community College Administrator*, has been taught in graduate classes in higher education leadership programs. His Inside Higher Ed column, "Confessions of a Community College Dean," is widely read throughout the industry, and attracts a readership ranging from presidents to students. He has been a keynote speaker at statewide community college conferences and professional associations. He even gave a well-received TEDx talk, "Education When Information is Free," in 2015. His national presence in the community college world was behind his selection to the inaugural class of Aspen Presidential Fellows in 2016.

Dr. Reed received his B.A. in political science from Williams College, and his Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University. He has taught at DeVry, Rutgers, and Kean Universities, as well as the County College of Morris.