

Bio -- Dr. Melissa Curtis

Dr. Melissa Curtis has more than twenty-two years of higher education experience, spanning both academic and student affairs. She has most recently served as Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management at Austin Community College, leading enrollment strategies for the district's eleven campuses. Austin Community College has been recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution, an Achieving the Dream Leader College, and among the top 150 for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

Dr. Curtis has also held positions as Dean of Student Affairs and Director of College Connection, an award-winning program that increased college enrollment from the region's 26 school districts. She began her higher education career as an English Professor at Central Texas College, where she dedicated herself to improving college access and degree attainment of underrepresented students.

Dr. Curtis is a recognized coalition builder, nurturing partnerships within the educational ecosystem. Her service has included seats on the YMCA Austin Metropolitan Board, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce DTC70 and Education Council, the E3 Alliance Blueprint Leadership Council, and the Austin College Attainment Network. Nationally, she has served on the CCSSE Students in Need in Community Colleges Advisory Board as well as the Higher Education Research and Development Institute (HERDI) South Advisory Board. Dr. Curtis is a published author and has presented nationally on Emergency Aid, Equity in Strategic Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs Change Management. Dr. Curtis earned her Ph.D. in Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin, her M.F.A. in creative writing from Texas State University, and her B.A. in Oral Tradition in African and American Literature from Vassar College.