



Dr. DeAnna Burt

South Central College's New Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs

Dr. DeAnna R. Burt has over 18 years of experience supporting students, faculty, and staff in a higher education setting, most recently as the vice president of academic affairs for Baker College of Muskegon, Michigan.

She joined Baker College in 1999 where she served in various campus and system roles as faculty, department chair, dean, system department coordinator, chief academic officer, and vice president of academics affairs, as a member of the president's cabinet until her honorable departure in March 2018. She is known for her exemplary leadership of a combination of academic and student affairs functions of the operation. Her contributions bear evidence throughout the community and the Baker College System where she served on nearly all key campus and System strategic initiatives with a positive impact on student access, achievement, and completion, as well as operational efficiencies. Prior to joining Baker College, Dr. Burt was employed as the information technology manager with a Michigan-based affiliate of an international chemical manufacturer and also served in the roles of computer programmer and systems analyst for a major Midwest retailer. But, it was in the role of adjunct faculty for a community college that Dr. Burt discovered her vocation as an educator, which ultimately guided her to opportunities for full-time teaching and progressive advancement in the role of administrator where she continues to leverage her passion and influence to shape higher education policy and practice.

A community servant, Dr. Burt works tirelessly for advancement among all in the areas of diversity and inclusion, education, philanthropy, socioeconomic equality, and workforce development at the local, state, and national levels. Prior to coming to South Central College, she served as a trustee for the Muskegon County Community Foundation, which was named one of the nation's *Top 100 Largest Community Foundations*. As a trustee for the Foundation, she was appointed as an executive board member, strategic leadership committee member, and chairperson of the grant distribution committee, which determines the allocation of monetary resources throughout the community. Dr. Burt also served as a member of the executive board for the Michigan American Council on Education (MI-ACE), an affiliate of the nationally recognized American Council on Education (ACE) with notable contributions as chair of the membership (fundraising) committee and contributions also to its subcommittees for public relations and public policy in higher education.

Dr. Burt is often characterized as an authentic, collegial, dynamic, inspiring, process-oriented, and visionary leader, a woman of integrity who is passionate about education. She is a relationship-builder. Dr. Burt studied in Mexico, has received a host of awards and recognitions, and speaks publicly in various personal and professional capacities.

Academically, Dr. Burt holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership, Research and Technology (Western Michigan University), which earned her international recognition as a 2008-2009 ASHE/Lumina Fellow "for innovative scholarship examining social, institutional, and policy barriers to opportunity and student success." Her research interests include academic advising strategies in higher education, change management, learning communities, open-enrollment institutions, student persistence and retention, and support for underrepresented and underserved populations including minorities and those with learning disabilities. Dr. Burt also holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems with minors in business and religion, both from Western Michigan University where she is a graduate of the Lee Honors College.