

Meet Delaware Tech's New Executive Vice President



Delaware Technical Community College's Board of Trustees voted unanimously at its June 4, 2013 meeting to appoint Dr. Mark T. Brainard as executive vice president, a position established by the board in April as part of a presidential succession plan designed to prepare for the eventual retirement of long-standing College President, Dr. Orlando J. George, Jr. Upon Dr. George's retirement, the board will post the president's position to include an external search.

Dr. Brainard's extensive and varied executive leadership positions played a significant role in his appointment. He held the position of assistant vice president for personnel & legal affairs at Delaware Tech from 1995-1999 before going on to serve three years as executive vice president of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. He then served six years as chief of staff to Governor Ruth Ann Minner. Returning to the College in 2008, he was appointed campus director of the Stanton/Wilmington Campus in 2010. Dr. Brainard is also a graduate of Delaware Tech.

Describe your new role and how your experience has helped prepare you for it.

I look forward to working with Dr. George to provide strategic direction for all administrative areas as well as having day-to-day responsibility for management of the major operational divisions of the College. Having worked in both the state's public and private sectors, I know the critical role the College plays in connecting Delawareans with quality jobs and supporting the workforce needs of our state's employers. I also know how important it is to be mindful of our students and stakeholders as we navigate internal policy and operational issues collegewide.

In what area(s) do you see the most opportunity for professional growth?

Like most sectors in this economy, higher education – particularly at the community college level – is experiencing very rapid change requiring new, nimble and creative thinking to respond to the challenges we face. These changes will, I am sure, generate countless learning opportunities for all of us.

Having graduated from Delaware Tech in 1981 and now assuming the role of Executive Vice President in 2013, what about the College has changed the most?

What has stayed the same is the deep commitment that our faculty and staff have to the success of our students and the community at large. Having been on the receiving end of that guidance, mentoring and coaching over the years, I know its impact. What has changed is technology and how it has transformed everything – from how we deliver instructional materials to how we keep our campuses safe.

What excites you most about this position?

Many years ago, Delaware Tech provided me the foundation to pursue and accomplish my educational and career goals, so I am honored and very grateful for this opportunity to support our students and serve the College that has done so much for me over the years. My time at the Stanton/Wilmington Campus was truly some of the most professionally gratifying and personally enjoyable years of my career since I was able to work so closely with the faculty, staff and administrators who serve our students every day. I now look forward to working with our entire team across all of our campuses.

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