

*Curriculum Vitae*

**DEBORAH E. PRESTON, PH.D.**

Education

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Ph.D. in English, Tulane University, LA, 1998

M.A. in English, Florida State University, FL, 1988

B.A. in Theatre, Florida State University, FL, 1986

Administrative Experience

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*Raritan Valley Community College is an open admissions institution in Branchburg, NJ, serving approximately 6500 students from the counties of Somerset and Hunterdon in their pursuit of both credit and noncredit degrees and credentials.*

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; 2017 to present.**

Responsible for executive coordination of all campus operations in direct collaboration with RVCC President and immediate oversight of Academic Affairs as chief academic officer. Duties include supervising academic divisions, prison education program, and institutional research; developing and implementing college-wide initiatives for student equity and success; overseeing the \$21 million academic affairs budget; advocating internally and externally for campus resources needs; attending to strategic planning and accreditation processes; and providing innovative leadership during the pandemic.

Accomplishments:

- co-chaired RVCC's Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 and revision of Mission Statement
- spearheaded revision of statewide general education requirements and served on Academic Issues Committee sub-group to update state-wide program approval process (working with NJCCC, NJ Presidents Council, and OSHE)
- designed and launched Access2Success, RVCC's first Closing the Gap initiative;
- restructured promotion criteria to remove artificial barriers for faculty;
- guided creation of new programs in Health Science with industry funding;
- implemented Academic Affairs reorganization and further streamlined departments;
- restructured Winter Term to double enrollment;
- collaborated with faculty for 400% increase in OER use.

*Montgomery College is a comprehensive, open admissions community college in Montgomery County, MD, with three campuses and multiple service centers, serving more than 60,000 students a year, in more than 100 credit and noncredit areas of study.*

**Chair**, Academic Master Plan (Special Assignment); 2015-16

Responsibilities: Developed Montgomery College's 2016-2021 Academic Master Plan; duties included chairing the Steering Committee, overseeing four work groups, conducting focus groups and forums, writing and editing text, and working collaboratively with over 200 participants.

**Dean** for Visual, Performing, and Media Arts; 2006 to 2017

Responsibilities: Oversight of all credit and non-credit arts programs, including nine arts disciplines, the Performing Arts Center, and the Arts Institute. Duties included supervising and evaluating fifty-eight full-time faculty and twenty-one staff members, managing a \$7.2 million budget, engaging with the college community in strategic planning, monitoring curriculum and enrollment, and serving as the college liaison to local, state, and district arts organizations.

Accomplishments:

- streamlined college-wide faculty evaluation process;
- transitioned paper course evaluation process to electronic/on-line, college-wide;
- served on strategic planning committee, academic affairs reorganization work group, and facilities master plan steering group;
- supervised grant-funded projects sponsored by private foundations (\$260,000) and governmental agencies (\$150,000 annually);
- acted for three months as Associate Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs;
- chaired the Academic Master Plan.

*Georgia Perimeter College (now Perimeter College at Georgia State University) is a two-year transfer institution of the University System of Georgia, serving 21,000 credit students on five campuses in metro-Atlanta, and now a unit of Georgia State University.*

**Campus Provost**, Lawrenceville Campus; 2005-2006

Responsibilities: Executive operation of a campus serving 7500 students, including oversight of budget (\$13 million annually), supervision and evaluation of campus deans, service on College Executive Team, implementation of programs and directives from college President and state Board of Regents, and fostering community relations.

Accomplishments:

- spearheaded student retention and success initiative (including implementation of on-line tracking and intervention);

- served simultaneously as campus provost for one campus and acting campus provost for a second campus;
- successfully placed over a hundred faculty and staff in new positions due to campus closure.

**Fellow**, American Council on Education; 2004-2005

Selected as one of thirty-four Fellows nation-wide to participate in ACE's "premier higher education leadership development program," I was one of only two community college awardees. Year-long activities included intensive seminars with experts on higher education topics such as finance, diversity, board management, athletics, media relations, conflict management, development, and leadership, as well as site visits to colleges and universities and executive internships with two community college presidents. Internship activities included research and writing for the president, attending executive meetings and board retreats, and international student recruitment in Europe.

**Department Chair**; 1997-1999

Responsibilities: Supervision of campus English and Humanities Department, including nineteen full-time faculty members, thirty-two part-time faculty members, and two support staff members; scheduled and staffed over one hundred sections per semester in nine different disciplines; managed a budget of \$950,000; served on academic and administrative committees; and taught two courses per year.

Accomplishments:

- successfully advocated for reallocation of college-wide resources based on campus FTE;
- wrote portion of SACS self-study (finance);
- transitioned department from quarters to semesters;
- awarded Campus Outstanding Leadership Award.

**Professor**; 1992-2006

Responsibilities: taught a full load of courses in theatre and English, including composition, literature, and developmental English, as well as courses in study skills and technology.

Accomplishments:

- team-taught fully interdisciplinary courses in world literature and world history;
- managed six study abroad programs for University System and taught in UK and Italy;
- taught in telecourse format and developed courses for GA Globe (Georgia Learning Online for Business and Education);
- achieved rank of tenured full professor.

## Teaching Experience

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Dean/Instructor, Montgomery College (MD), 2012-2013, Theatre

Instructor to Tenured Professor, DeKalb College/Georgia Perimeter College, 1992-2005, English (Composition, Literature, Developmental Writing), Theatre, Student Success, Intro to Technology

Adjunct Faculty Member, Shorter College School of Professional Programs, 2001-2006, MBA Executive Writing

Instructor and Coordinator, Emory University Continuing Education, 2000 to 2006, Evening at Emory Theatre-Goers

Faculty Member, University System of Georgia Study Abroad Program: Montepulciano, Summer 2002, (literature) and London, Summer 1997, (theatre)

## International Experience

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Administrative Liaison, Summer Enrichment Program, O. P. Jindal Global University in Haryana, India, 2014 to 2016

Team Member, International Conference on Curriculum Development for Indian Community Colleges, Loyola College, Chennai, India, March 2016

European Council Chair, University System of Georgia, 2005-2006

Responsibilities: administrative and financial oversight for five study abroad programs (London, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Paris, Schwäbisch Gmünd) serving nearly 300 students annually. Duties included budgeting and planning, annual selection of instructors, periodic site visits, contract negotiations with European partners, curriculum development and management, currency purchase and exchange, student and faculty orientations, and supervision of a full-time administrative assistant who made travel arrangements, tracked enrollment, and assisted with publicity and marketing. Also provided support and for bi-annual faculty development seminars.

European Council Representative, University System of Georgia, 1998-2006

Seminar Leader, European Council Seminar for VPAAAs to London and Brussels, Summer 2006

Program Director, European Council Study Abroad Program in London, 2004-2006

Institutional Representative, American Association of Community Colleges Student Recruitment Tour to Istanbul, Sofia, Stockholm, and Warsaw, November 2004

Faculty Leader, European Council Faculty Development Seminar to Hungary, May 2004

Faculty, European Council Study Abroad Program in Montepulciano, Italy, Summer 2002

On-Site Administrator, Board of Regents' Study Abroad Program in London, Summers 1998, 2000, and 2003

Co-Leader, European Council Faculty Development Seminar to Northern Ireland and Ireland, June 1999

Faculty, Board of Regents' Study Abroad Program in London, Summer 1997

#### Professional Development, Workshops, and Seminars

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"Planning Institutes: Foundations, Design, Sustain," Society for College and University Planning, January-February, 2021, Virtual

"Seminar on Leadership of the Faculty," Harvard Institute for Higher Education, Summer 2019, Cambridge, Massachusetts

"High Impact Practices Summer Institute," Team Leader, American Association of Colleges and Universities, 2018, Salt Lake City, Utah

"Teaching English as a Foreign Language," Certificate, TEFL Academy, 2017, Online

"Crucial Conversations," Montgomery College Center for Professional and Organizational Development, 2014, Rockville, Maryland

"Leadership Montgomery," Core Program, Class of 2010, Montgomery County, Maryland

"Facilitative Leadership," Montgomery College Center for Professional and Organizational Development, 2010, Rockville, Maryland

"Community College Regional Leadership Forum," American Council on Education/American Association of Women in Community Colleges, September 2008, Snowbird, Utah

"Development for Deans," Council for Advancement and Support of Education, November 2007, Vancouver, Canada

"ACE Fellows Program," American Council on Education, 2004-05

"Managerial Accounting and Analysis," National Association of College and University Business Officers, November 2005 Savannah, Georgia

"Leading Faculty Seminars Abroad," Board of Regents' Workshop, February 1999, Atlanta

"New Department Chair Workshop," Association of Departments of English Seminar (MLA), Participant, June 1998, Boston

National Institute for Leadership Development, American Association of Community Colleges,  
Graduate, May 1998, Baltimore

John Gardner Freshman Experience Workshop, Participant, January 1994, Atlanta

#### Service to the Community

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Member and Strategic Planning Chair, Board of Directors, Safe + Sound Somerset,  
Hillsborough, New Jersey (2018 to present)

Member and Governance Chair, Board of Directors, BlackRock Center for the Arts,  
Germantown, Maryland, (2015-2017)

Member and Vice-President, Board of Directors, Adventure Theatre MTC, Glen Echo,  
Maryland, 2009-2014

Member, Arts Education Advocacy Committee, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery  
County, Maryland, 2007-2008

Member, Strategic Planning Committee, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County,  
Maryland, 2006-2008

Member, Board of Directors, Jacquelyn Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts, Atlanta, 2005-2006

Member, Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce Higher Education Task Force, Atlanta, 2005

#### Service to the Profession and Institution (Highlights)

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Member, President's Executive Team, Raritan Valley Community College, (current)

Commissioner, American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion, 2021- 2025

Member of Review Team, Reaccreditation Site Visit, Middles States Commission on Higher  
Education, March 2021

RVCC Representative, Academic Affairs Committee of New Jersey Presidents' Council, 2019-  
present

Chair, Academic Affairs Affinity Group (CAOs), New Jersey Council of County Colleges, 2019-  
2020

Member, New Jersey Council of County Colleges "Best Practices Conference" Planning  
Committee, 2017-2018

Member, Blue Ribbon Task Force on Spending for Student Success, Montgomery College, 2016-2017

Member, Middle States Work Group VI: Planning, Resources, Institutional Improvement, Montgomery College, 2016-2017

Co-Chair, Montgomery College Academic Master Plan Steering Committee, 2015-2016

Member, MC 2020 Strategic Plan Review Committee, Montgomery College, 2015-2016

Member, Title IX Compliance Task Force, Montgomery College, 2014-2015

Member, College-wide Curriculum Committee, Montgomery College, 2014-2015

Member, AFSCME Staff Union Collaboration Committee, Montgomery College, 2013-2015

Deans' Representative, Instructional Materials Affordability Committee, Montgomery College, 2012-2014

Member, AAUP Faculty Union Collaboration Committee, Montgomery College, 2012-2014

Editor and Contributor, Montgomery College Diversity Report, 2013-2014

Member, Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force, Montgomery College, 2012-2013

Deans' Representative, Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Montgomery College, 2011-2012

Convener, College-wide Deans' Council, Montgomery College, 2011-2012 and Spring 2015

Founding Member, Department Chair Orientation Team, Montgomery College, 2009-2012

Member, Rockville Campus Leadership Team, Montgomery College, 2006-2017

On-Site Administrator, Georgia Board of Regents' Study Abroad Program in London, Summers 1998, 2000, and 2003

Member, College Executive Team, Georgia Perimeter College, 2005-2006

Chair, European Council, University System of Georgia, 2005-2006, Representative 1998-2006

Chair, College-Wide Promotion and Tenure Panel, Georgia Perimeter College, 2003

Member, SACS Accreditation Committee (Finance), Georgia Perimeter College, 1999-2002

Member, Campus Administrative Team, Georgia Perimeter College, 1997-1999

Member, Semester Conversion Steering Committee, Georgia Perimeter College, 1997-98

Humanities Representative, Faculty Senate, Georgia Perimeter College, 1994-96

## Projects and Publications

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Entries on Edward Albee, Theatre of the Absurd, Ann Patchett, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context*. Ed. Linda DeRoche. ABC-CLIO, 2021.

*Montgomery College Academic Master Plan: Access, Success, and Excellence*, Montgomery College, 2016.

*Re-visioning the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center*, Professional Leave Report, Montgomery College, 2014.

Biographies of John Keats, Lord Byron, Robert Browning, Leo Tolstoy, and Bernard Shaw. *Industrialization and Imperialism, 1800-1914*. Ed. Jeffrey A. Bell. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing, 2003.

*"Epochs of Impossibility": A Marxian Theory of Dramatic Parody and Burlesque*. Dissertation. 1998. Directed by Dr. Joseph Roach.

*Teaching English on Semesters: A Transitional Handbook*. Georgia Perimeter College In-House Printing. 1998.

## Professional Presentations

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"One (Semester) and Done: Fast-Tracking Your Next Strategic Plan," Panel Lead and Presenter, League for Innovation Annual Conference, Virtual, February 2022

"Solutions and Innovative Strategies," Panelist, Essential Skills Summit, New Jersey Council of County Colleges Conference, Middlesex County College, Edison, New Jersey, January 2020

"Moving Up: Transitions at the VP Level," Co-Presenter, League for Innovation Annual Conference, New York City, February 2019

"Academic Affairs in Community Colleges," Guest Lecturer, Ph.D. Program in Higher Education Leadership, Management and Policy, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, November 2019.

"Reducing Associate Degrees to 60 Credits," Panelist, Sixty Credit Law Forum, New Jersey Council of County Colleges Forum, Middlesex County College, Edison, New Jersey, October 2018

"RE-Inventing Process: Academic Planning at Montgomery College," Co-Presenter, Society for College and University Planning Conference, Princeton, New Jersey, April 2017



- “Structure and Planning for Student Success at Montgomery College,” Co-Presenter, Maryland Association of Community Colleges Summit on College Completion, Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, December 2015
- “Associates to Baccalaureate Transfers: Creating Pathways, Clearing Obstacles,” Roundtable Leader, International Council of Fine Arts Deans, Atlanta, October 2015
- “Collaborative Efforts in Ensuring Transferability,” Panel Leader and Presenter, International Council of Fine Arts Deans, Kansas City, October 2014
- “Once and Future Faculty: Two Deans Return to the Classroom,” Co-Presenter, Association of Faculties for Advancement of Community College Teaching, Prince Georges Community College, Largo, Maryland, January 2014
- “Faculty Seminars Abroad: Key Components for Success,” Maryland Community College International Education Consortium Seminar, Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland, 2010
- “Montgomery College Community Artists’ Studios: A Case Study in Partnership,” Symposium on Entrepreneurship and the Arts, Arizona State University, Phoenix, 2008
- “Learning Leadership: The ACE Fellows Program and the Two-Year College,” Presenter and Panel Organizer, League for Innovation Conference, New York City, March 2005
- “Developing Study Abroad Programs: Secrets for Success,” Panel Member, University System of Georgia Study Abroad Conference, Athens, Georgia, November 2002
- “Tripling the Odds of Success: Three Strategies for Internationalizing the Curriculum,” Community Colleges for International Development Conference, Tampa, Florida, February 2002
- “Marketing Study Abroad at the Two-Year College,” University System of Georgia Study Abroad Conference, Athens, Georgia, October 2001
- “Comrade Barbie: Rethinking the Pink(o) Princess,” Marxism 2000 Gala Conference. Amherst, Massachusetts, September 2000
- “The Historical ‘Moment Before the Gun Went Off’: Teaching Nadine Gordimer in Context,” African Literature Association Conference, Fes, Morocco, March 1999
- “Study Abroad in England: The Roehampton Program Model for Two-Year Colleges,” Internationalizing General Education Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 1998
- “Study Abroad in the Two-Year College,” Panel Member, University System of Georgia Third Annual Study Abroad Conference, Athens, Georgia, October 1997

- "'The Gentle Savage': Identity and Alterity in Two Pocahontas Plays," Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, December 1995
- "Propaganda as Transgression: Brecht's Anti-Nazi Plays," Film and Literature Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, January 1993
- "*Tragedy of Tragedies*: Fielding's Conquest of Dryden," Comparative Drama Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, March 1990
- "*Vietnamization of New Jersey*: Durang's American Tragedy," South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1989
- "Culture and the Individual in the Plays of Christopher Durang," Film and Literature Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, January 1989
- "Theatre in Life: Role Playing in Evreinov's *Dual Theatre*," Comparative Drama Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, March 1988
- "*Crimes of the Heart*: Feminism on Stage and Screen," Film and Literature Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, January 1988

## Memberships

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- American Association of Community Colleges (Institutional)
- Achieving the Dream (Institutional)
- League for Innovation (Institutional)
- Association of American Colleges and Universities (Institutional Contact, 2017-present)
- Society for College and University Planning (2016-present)
- Leadership Montgomery (2010-2017)
- International Council of Fine Arts Deans (2007-2017)
- Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (2007-2017)
- Association of Theatre in Higher Education (1990-1995, 2007-2017)
- Modern Language Association (1989-2003)