

## **David Potash, President, Wilbur Wright College**

David Potash, PhD., has served as president of Wilbur Wright College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago since 2013. Under his leadership the 85-year old community college in northwest Chicago has increased student success, created new degree programs and certificates, advanced an equity agenda, strengthened community service and civic engagement, added career and apprenticeship programs, and dedicated itself to serving a growing Hispanic population with outstanding educational opportunities. The college's IPEDS completion rate has more than doubled, transfer rates have improved, and the institution has come together in planning and accreditation work that emphasizes shared values, a deep commitment to student success and continuous improvement.

Prior to Wright, Dr. Potash was the first Chief Academic Officer at Curry College, in Milton, MA, a preprofessional residential arts college with graduate programs. Curry is known nationally as one of the first institutions of higher education to develop strength-based supports systems for students with language disabilities. In his tenure, Curry took significant strides with academic planning, evaluation and assessment, strategic enrollment management, and in academic quality, building a center for innovation in pedagogy and curricula with external funding support.

From 1998 to 2008, Dr. Potash served at two institutions in the City University of New York System (CUNY). At Hunter College, where he was assistant vice president for academic affairs and associate provost, Dr. Potash worked on improving student success rates, year-round programming and student support, general education reform, and a range of educational IT improvements. He served seven years at Baruch College. As associate provost he oversaw the development of a new core curriculum, restructuring of the first year and developmental education, reorganization of all academic support systems, and the introduction of strategic enrollment management. During his tenure at Baruch, the college's IPEDS completion rate improved more than twenty percentage points. Dr. Potash was a point person at both senior colleges for work with CUNY's community colleges.

President Potash holds a BA from Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he majored in English and philosophy. He began his academic career at New York University in the Faculty of Arts and Science, where he held several positions. He earned an MA in History and taught writing at NYU. He obtained a PhD in history from Cambridge University, England. Dr. Potash has taught American history courses at CUNY and at Curry College.

President Potash is active with several national organizations as a scholar and presenter. He serves on the advisory board for GetSet, an education tech firm, the Rice University advisory board for teaching and learning, the ETS Skills for a New Economy advisory board; and the

national Community Colleges for Democracy advisory board. He is currently guest editing of an edition of the CUMU journal with an issue focused on community colleges.

Married for more than twenty years to Jenny Gibbs, executive director of the International Fine Art Print Dealers Association, the couple have two sons. David enjoys athletics, travel, music, and the arts. He paints and draws.