

Hall of Fame



Dr. Paul Sechrist, 2023 OACC Hall of Fame

Dr. Paul Sechrist began his career in education more than 45 years ago as a mid-high teacher in Yukon, Oklahoma. He then served as a Professor of Teacher Education and later as Dean of the College of Adult Studies at Southern Nazarene University. Dr. Sechrist joined Oklahoma City Community College in 1995 as the Dean of the Division of Business & Computer Technology. Shortly after, he was appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs. Within a few years, the responsibilities and title of Provost were added. In the fall of 2005, Dr. Sechrist was named Acting President following the announcement of the retirement of President Robert Todd. He became the 9th

President of Oklahoma City Community College on December 12, 2005, and served 10 years in the role before his retirement in 2015.

At OCCC, Dr. Sechrist was integral in establishing the campus's Visual and Performance Arts Center and developing new programs that aligned with the state's economic development initiatives, including biotechnology, information technology, film and video production, and international studies. He was instrumental in creating new strategic workforce development partnerships with Integris Health Corporation, AC Delco, and the Oklahoma Film Commission.

Dr. Sechrist served as chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Council on Instruction and as a member of the national Community College Advisory Panel for The College Board. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of The College Board and served as chair, only the second community college president to hold that position in the organization's more than 100-year history. His many accolades include the Chair Academy's Outstanding Regional Leadership Award, being named twice as a Most Admired CEO in Oklahoma by The Journal Record, and selection to the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

He holds degrees in communication from Southern Nazarene University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.