

Leadership Panel Discussion: Advancing Your Career – Conference Presenter Bios

Richard Alpern, CPA, JD, MBA

Since 2009, Richard Alpern has been the Associate Dean for Finance in the UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Responsibilities include providing leadership and oversight of various administrative functions primarily budget, finance, and human resources. In this position, he is part of a leadership team of associate deans that provide advice to the Dean on major decisions in all aspects of running the College including strategic planning, resource allocation, organization, enrollment management, academic programs, and policy-making. He has worked collaboratively with colleagues in the College and departments to create budgeting and accounting methodologies that stress efficiency, effectiveness and student success. He has also helped to implement administrative organizational structures that have improved efficiency as well as service to students, faculty and staff.

Richard started his career at UIC in 1996 in the College of Engineering. This position was similar to the one he currently has in LAS. In this position he progressed from Director to Associate Dean. Also, during his time in Engineering he earned an MBA from UIC.

Richard graduated from Illinois State University in 1988 with a B.S. degree in Accounting and shortly thereafter passed the CPA exam. Two years in public accounting exposed him to various sectors of the economy with a specialization in the construction industry. He then went to law school and graduated in 1993 with a J.D. from DePaul University. After passing the Illinois Bar he worked in various law and finance jobs for three years before joining UIC. In law, he worked primarily in insurance defense working a variety of cases including personal injury, property damage and contracts

Kathleen M. Engstrom, MHSA, MBA

Kathleen Engstrom is the Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) at UIC. In this position, she is responsible for the overall administrative, fiscal and business operations in the college, including financial planning and reporting, budgeting, human resources, research administration and facilities management. Since assuming her position at CUPPA in 2015, Kathleen has worked with the Dean and college leadership to implement administrative efficiencies, established a shared services model for research administration and has overseen the building, construction and personnel operations associated with the 2015 damage to the CUPPA building and subsequent repair and return to normal operations. Kathleen served on the OBFS team that developed the current Effort Reporting System and currently to serves on the ARS (Activity Reporting) Committee and the ITGC (Information Technology Governance Committee). Her professional interests include organizational changes to increase efficiencies utilizing a variety of approaches including a shared services, systems documentation and employee education, in addition to a continuing a continuing interest in research administration and facilities management.

Kathleen earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Michigan. She spent over 10 years working as a registered nurse in a variety of health care settings including hospital intensive care units in Michigan, Wyoming and Arizona and public health nursing in rural Wyoming. She then obtained a Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) and Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Arizona State University. After completing an administrative residency at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale and Mayo Clinic Rochester, she worked at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale in clinical and basic research administration for 10 years. Kathleen joined UIC in 2000 as an Assistant Director in the Office of

Research Services (ORS), then worked in the College of Medicine as a Director of Administrative Operations (DAO) in two departments under the implementation of a shared services model, before joining CUPPA in 2015.

Dale E. Rush, CGFM
Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs

Dale Rush is the Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs for the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy. As the chief financial officer, he provides leadership and oversight for all business and administrative matters including financial management, human resources, and space planning and is also the HIPAA Privacy Officer for the college. As part of the college's senior leadership team, he has worked collaboratively with his colleagues on numerous initiatives including establishing a college research strategic plan, building a framework with hospital administration and clinical staff to evaluate pharmaceutical financial opportunities, and developing strategic metrics to measure resource productivity and entrepreneurial growth. He is currently serving as Chair-Elect for the university's Information Technology Governance Council Administration Committee.

Dale Rush earned his M.S. in Higher Education Administration from Iowa State University and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He spent three years working in student affairs related roles including managing a service learning center. He spent five years working in the federal government in the areas of budget and financial affairs and internal audits. Over the last 11 years, Dale has worked at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the university budget office, College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy. In those 11 years, he has served in several roles including Assistant Director for the university budget office and working as a program and budget officer for the College of Medicine. Much of his professional interests focus on institutional data management, team-based leadership and administrative efficiencies.

Todd G. Van Neck, MPP

Todd Van Neck has 30 years of experience in higher education budgeting and financial management. He currently is the Associate Dean for Administration at the UI College of Medicine. In this capacity, he leads the College's administrative and financial functions/staff (including finance, HR, IT, and space/facilities management). This role entails advising the Dean on all administrative, business, and financial matters and working collaboratively with other associate deans (Research, Education, Clinical Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Diversity & Inclusion, Advancement, and Student Affairs) to guide the strategic investment of resources and advance the College's mission. He also works closely with University Hospital and practice plan leadership to better align goals, priorities, and resources and to optimize the clinical revenue cycle. He serves as chair of the IT Governance Council's committee on administrative systems, acts as one of the primary HIPAA liaisons for the College, serves on the OBFS Advisory Committee, and as the College's principal business officer serves as liaison to the Association of American Medical Colleges' Group on Business Affairs.

Prior to joining the College of Medicine, Todd Van Neck served as campus budget director, as part of the UIC Provost's Office. Before coming to UIC, he worked in various roles at Northwestern University for 14 years, including seven years as assistant director of Northwestern's budget office.

He received his Bachelor's in Political Science and Master's in Public Policy degrees from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor).

Daniel Williams, CPA, MSA

Daniel Williams is the Executive Associate Director of Campus Auxiliary Services and Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (Division Fiscal Officer) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and has been responsible for leading the finance, budgets and financial planning of the division since 2016. The Student Affairs division records gross revenues in excess of \$94 million, employs over 400 full-time equivalent staff and has 14 points of service including the University Village Marketplace (\$500 million commercial retail/office development plus student housing), the UIC Pavilion, the UIC Forum and many other student support focused operations.

With a career dedicated to improving the operations of non-profit organizations and significant capabilities in balance sheet management, revenue cycle analysis and operations turnaround, Daniel Williams' prior experiences includes Chief Financial Officer positions at:

- National Alzheimer's Association – Chicago IL
- Holy Cross Hospital – Chicago, IL
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Health System – Pontiac, MI
- Laurel Health System – Wellsboro, PA

Williams holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern Illinois University and a master's of science and administration (non-profit administration) from the University of Notre Dame. Williams is a licensed certified public accountant in the state of Illinois.