

Gregory Anderson



Students form the center of Dr Anderson's work. First in his family to attend college, he grew up farming in rural Wisconsin and began teaching as a Peace Corps volunteer in a mountain village in Lesotho, going on to teach around the world. For 35 years, including two decades in the classroom, he has worked to widen access and make success less predictable by race, income, language, or geography. He believes open-access community colleges strengthen democracy and advance justice by expanding opportunity.

Dr Anderson has put that commitment to work across multiple Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Most recently, as Interim VP of Academic Affairs at Ventura College, he strengthened ESL offerings, grew embedded tutoring, and expanded dual enrollment for first-generation and Latino students. At Cañada College, as VP of Instruction and an HSI Title V leader, he helped establish Puente and open the Dream Center. His career reflects Gavilan's focus on equity in access, support, and achievement.

As Riverside City College's president, Dr Anderson chaired the districtwide anti-racism task force and helped achieve double-digit gains in Black and Latino student success. As Interim VC at Kern CCD, he led instruction and student services across three colleges. He has served as Academic Senate president, accreditation liaison officer, and peer reviewer. He has also managed multimillion-dollar budgets, coordinated capital projects, led enrollment management, and secured major grants and philanthropic gifts.

His curriculum leadership includes chairing college curriculum committees and co-authoring California's Program and Course Approval Handbook. At Ventura, he helped faculty transform a fragmented curriculum process, respecting their primacy in the 10+1. He cleared obstacles, built transparent systems, and funded the work. The result is current curriculum across the college and Ventura's first bachelor's degree.

Living and working within the communities he served, he learned Spanish and other languages through listening, immersion, and cultural humility. Those experiences taught him that our students bring intellect, courage, and character. Education should help them recognize and wield that power.

Dr Anderson holds a doctorate in Higher Education from USC, a master's in Teaching from the School for International Training, and bachelor's degrees in Speech Communication and English from the University of Wisconsin. In the classroom, shared governance, and executive leadership, Gregory's purpose remains the same: Transform colleges to help students turn access into agency, opportunity, and achievement.