

University of New Mexico-Taos

College Bio

Dr. Christopher Villa



Dr. Christopher Villa is an experienced leader in higher education who recently served as Campus President at Portland Community College (PCC) - Rock Creek. He led the PCC Rock Creek campus in support of the *Yes to Equitable Student Success (YESS)* Initiative that established an equitable student success framework with a focus on cultural competency in the classroom and strategic programming designed to improve student outcomes and close opportunity gaps. The College developed a new *Guided Pathways* framework that included six academic pathways with appropriate wrap-around services that will improve student success outcomes for low income/first generation college students.

Dr. Villa is an enthusiastic supporter of networking with local businesses in support of Career Technical Education (CTE), workforce development, and entrepreneurship. He provided leadership for 14 CTE programs at PCC Rock Creek and through his efforts the campus expanded its partnership with *Caterpillar* and *Peterson CAT* to support the *Peterson CAT Think Big Program* resulting in the approval to construct a new Electric Power Generation (EPG) facility at PCC Rock Creek that will provide high wage jobs for students in years to come.

He established productive relationships with k-12 superintendents and administrators to expand successful efforts such as dual enrollment in which over 6,300 students per year participate. He also oversaw an early college high school on campus in which over 400 high school students completed a minimum of 60 quarter transferable credits upon graduation.

Dr. Villa served on multiple community organizations including as a board member with the city of Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the *Vision Action Network*, a community-based organization focused on mitigating poverty and homelessness, and the *Five Oaks Museum*, named in honor of the *Tualatin Kalapuyan* indigenous people who originally inhabited the land surrounding the PCC Rock Creek campus. As an active member of the *Westside Economic Alliance*, a group of business, government, education, and community-based leaders, he advocated on behalf of PCC Rock Creek students.

As a result of his strong advocacy for equity, Dr. Villa was appointed to the State of Oregon Higher Education Council Coalition (HECC) Equity Leadership Council, a group of educational leaders whose objective is to increase equity in postsecondary education and who have experience in policy development and implementation of equity programs and strategies that close equity disparities. In addition, he is a mentor with the National Hispanic Community Council, an affiliate of the American

Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Villa is a part-time faculty in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department at California State University, Northridge and has taught doctoral and masters level courses to practicing college administrators, faculty, and staff.