

Julius W. Edwards, Ph.D.

Visionary Leader | Strategic Innovator | Champion for Access and Workforce Alignment

Dr. Julius W. Edwards is a higher education executive with over a decade of progressive leadership within Ivy Tech Community College, the nation's largest singly accredited community college. Serving as Sector Vice President, Dr. Edwards provides strategic direction to three major academic divisions across 19 campuses, impacting thousands of students and aligning educational pathways with Indiana's workforce needs.

A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Edwards, is widely celebrated for championing innovation, economic mobility, and equity. He led the creation of Ivy Tech's statewide School of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management—Indiana's only public-accredited culinary program—and secured \$750,000 in early investments for entrepreneurship education. His efforts have resulted in \$20 million in state funding to expand commercial driver training, launching mental health and community health worker credentials, and strategic partnerships with Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, the Indiana CPA Society, among others, to ensure academic programs align with national industry needs.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Edwards served as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dean, and Chair, where he stewarded multimillion-dollar budgets, increased retention, and expanded transfer pipelines. As the founding co-chair of the Indiana Transfer Council and a peer reviewer for both ACBSP and the Higher Learning Commission, he has consistently advanced quality assurance and student mobility across institutions.

Dr. Edwards holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Indiana State University, an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University, and a Bachelor's in Accounting and Finance from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. His accolades include the Minority Achievers Award from the Center for Leadership Development and Indiana's Best and Brightest in Education by Junior Achievement.

Driven by a mission to elevate lives through education, Dr. Edwards combines deep institutional experience with a forward-thinking approach, bridging higher education, community impact, and economic growth.