

COMMUNITYCONNECT

COVID 19 Series: Higher Education

Thursday, September 24, 2020 | 3 pm

Panelist Bios



Dr. Kevin Kirby

Vice President for Administration, Rice University

Kevin E. Kirby, Ed.D. is the Vice President for Administration at Rice University. Prior to joining Rice, Dr. Kirby was the Chief Operating Officer for the Columbia University Medical Center; served as Executive Officer for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health; held several management positions with the Army Research Laboratory; served on the staff of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; served as science adviser for the Commanding General, Army Forces Command; and started his career conducting research on the low temperature behavior of materials at the Army Materials Technology Lab. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he teaches two popular undergraduate classes – Leadership in Higher Education and Crisis Leadership. Kevin holds a B.S. in chemical engineering from Syracuse University, an M.S. in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan Fellow), another master's degree in social and organizational learning from George Mason University, and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania.



Richard L. Ludwick, JD, DEd

President, University of St. Thomas

Richard L. Ludwick became the 9th president of the University of St. Thomas on July 1, 2017. He previously served as president of the Independent Colleges of Indiana, the nation's oldest association of 31 private, nonprofit colleges and universities enrolling more than 100,000 students. In that capacity, he led strategic initiatives in public policy at the state and federal levels, spurred innovative, intercollegiate collaborations, and successfully executed multi-million dollar philanthropic campaigns.

Richard served as provost at St. Gregory's University in Oklahoma before joining ICI. Early in his career, Richard co-founded a law firm in Indiana and later went on to serve institutions of higher learning across the United States, including positions as vice president of enrollment management and student affairs at Albany Law School (Albany, NY); assistant dean for student and academic affairs at the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville); and dean of students at the University of Oregon School of Law (Eugene).

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Evansville, Richard holds a Master of Arts in higher education administration from Teachers College of Columbia University (New York), Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney Law School, and Doctor of Education in policy management and organization of higher education administration from the University of Oregon (Eugene).

Currently, Richard serves as chair-elect of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT), and as a member of the Texas Medical Center Advisory Board. Richard served as president of the International Council of the Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas, a global network of institutions dedicated to the spirit of St. Thomas. He also served as a commissioner for the Midwest Higher Education Compact; chair of the board for the Coalition for College Cost Savings; as a member of the Indiana Chamber's Business Higher Education Policy Committee; and as a member of the State Councils' Advisory Committee for the Council of Independent Colleges.

Richard and his wife, Melynda, a pharmacist, have two grown children, Richard III, also a graduate of the University of Evansville, and Christianne, a graduate of Ave Maria University and Butler University respectively. Christianne and husband, Michael Fenzl, have three children, Gabriel, Pia and Benedict.



Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi
President, Houston Community College - Central

Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi is the president of Central College of Houston Community College System. Prior to joining Central in 2017, Dr. Siddiqi served as provost and chief academic officer at Morton College and Executive Director at the City Colleges of Chicago. Dr. Siddiqi's career profile also includes almost a decade long experience with the large multinational corporations where he assumed different roles and managed large-scale projects.

Dr. Siddiqi received his Ed.D. in Adult Education and Higher Education with major in Human Resource Development from Northern Illinois University; a Master of Business Administration from Northern Alabama University; and a Master in Industrial Technology from Illinois Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of Institute for Educational Management (IEM) at Harvard University, Executive Leadership Program at Cornell, Leadership Development Program at National University of Singapore, and Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) at the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Siddiqi has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate level courses and conducted several professional workshops. He has also presented at national and international conferences. Dr. Siddiqi is passionate about community service and creating opportunity through collaboration and demonstrates his commitment by serving on multiple non-profit boards and commissions.