

## News Release

# Dr. Kathryn Rogalski of NWTC Chosen for National Presidential Fellowship for Community College Leaders

*40 Aspiring Community College Presidents Will Participate in 2021-2022 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship to Advance Student Success*

GREEN BAY (August 9, 2021) – The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program today announced that Dr. Kathryn Rogalski, vice president of learning at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2021-22 class of the [Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship](#), a highly selective leadership program preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

The [Rising Presidents Fellows](#) will embark on the 10-month fellowship beginning in November 2021. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, the fellows will be mentored by esteemed current and former community college presidents who have achieved exceptional outcomes for students throughout their careers and will learn strategies to improve student outcomes in and after college, lead internal change, and create strong external partnerships with K-12 schools, four-year colleges, employers, and other partners.

“To become institutions that truly advance social mobility and talent development, community colleges must have presidents with a clear vision for equitable student success,” said Monica Clark, director of leadership initiatives at the College Excellence Program. “We have selected these fellows because they share that commitment and are well-positioned to become transformational leaders.”

“Kathryn has been an exemplary member of our institution and community, and I look forward to watching her grow through this experience. We are proud to cultivate exceptional leaders at NWTC, and Kathryn embodies the vision and work ethic to propel student success,” said Dr. Jeff Rafn, NWTC president.

**ABOUT NWTC:** Established in 1912, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is a two-year technical college with three campuses, five regional learning centers, and several specialty centers throughout a nine-county district. Serving over 24,000 students annually, the College offers flexible degrees, classes, and training in over 200 high demand career fields via in-person, online, and blended instruction. Ninety-one percent of NWTC graduates are employed within six months of graduation. Additionally, hundreds of alumni continue their education through NWTC's transfer agreements with over 40 other colleges/universities. The College is nationally recognized for student success having earned the 2020 Achieving the Dream (ATD) Leader College of Distinction status, 2021 ATD Leah Meyer Austin Award, 2021 Bellwether consortium finalist recognition, and 2019 INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. NWTC, home of the Eagles, believes everyone - no matter where they are in their personal and professional journeys - can soar higher.

“It is an honor to be among this cohort of exceptional leaders across the nation who share the same commitment to equity, access, and success for community and technical college students,” said Dr. Kathryn Rogalski, NWTC vice president of learning. “I am grateful for the support of NWTC and look forward to applying my experience to our institution and beyond.”

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship responds to the growing need for a new generation of leaders well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Nationally, nearly 80 percent of sitting presidents plan to retire in the next decade. While the traditional pathway to the presidency has often excluded women and people of color, the incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is composed of 68 percent women and 70 percent people of color, and represents institutions of varying sizes and locations.

Together, the 2021-22 fellows are leaders at colleges that collectively serve more than 400,000 students. As well, 67 Rising Presidents Fellowship alumni have become presidents of community colleges that collectively serve an additional 953,000 students nationwide.

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**The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices and leadership strategies that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Aspen Presidential Fellowship, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges’ understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of students from low-income backgrounds and students of color on American campuses. For more information, visit [higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org](https://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org) and follow us on Twitter at @AspenHigherEd.

**The Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative (SELI)** advances the critical cause of diversity, equity and inclusion in learning science and postsecondary education leadership. SELI’s research practice partnership with the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has enabled faculty from the Stanford Graduate Schools of Education, Business and Engineering to host and prepare 200 Aspen Presidential Fellows to lead U.S. community colleges for student success in graduation and preparation for workforce advancement. For more information, visit [seli.stanford.edu](https://seli.stanford.edu)

**The Aspen Institute** is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners.

