

Luca E. Lewis, Ph.D.

President

Ventura College | Ventura County Community College District

Luca E. Lewis, Ph.D. (he/him) is President of Ventura College, where he provides strategic leadership to advance student success, institutional excellence, and community impact. A nationally recognized higher education executive, scholar-practitioner, and equity-minded leader with more than two decades of experience, Dr. Lewis is known for guiding colleges through periods of transformational change while strengthening organizational culture, expanding access, and fostering innovation. His leadership emphasizes collaborative governance, strategic enrollment management, workforce and educational partnerships, and creating student-ready institutions that empower diverse learners to achieve their educational and career goals.

Prior to serving as President, Dr. Lewis held executive leadership positions as Vice President of Student Affairs at Ventura College, Associate Vice Chancellor of Education and Student Services for the West Hills Community College District, and Vice President for Student Services at Whatcom Community College. Throughout his career, he has led institution-wide initiatives that strengthen student success, organizational effectiveness, intercultural competence, and inclusive excellence while cultivating meaningful partnerships with K–12 districts, universities, business and industry, philanthropic organizations, and community leaders.

In addition to his executive leadership, Dr. Lewis has an extensive teaching background spanning nearly two decades. He has taught sociology, diversity and social stratification, gender studies, organizational development, communication, and physical education at the University of Idaho, Washington State University, Bellevue College, Highline College, Green River College, and other institutions. Teaching in face-to-face, hybrid, and online environments has shaped his student-centered leadership philosophy and continues to inform his commitment to academic excellence, faculty collaboration, and creating transformative learning environments for all students.

A respected national speaker, consultant, and author, Dr. Lewis has contributed extensively to advancing equity-minded leadership and institutional transformation in higher education. He is a contributing author to *Higher Education Administration for Social Justice and Equity: Critical Perspectives for Leadership* (edited by Dr. Adrianna Kezar and Dr. Julie Posselt) and co-author, with Dr. Julia G. MaKinster, of *Gender Inclusivity Standards and Expectations for Higher Education: A Comprehensive Assessment Tool for Growth and Advancement*. His scholarship and professional work focus on cultivating belonging, advancing culturally responsive leadership, and removing systemic barriers to student access, persistence, and success.

Dr. Lewis holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, and a bachelor's degree in General Studies from the University of Idaho.