



## BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Irene Rios-Knauf currently serves as CEO for the largest campus of SUNY Suffolk, the largest community college in New York State, enrolling over 24,000 students annually. She presides as the chief academic and operating officer, responsible for providing academic, administrative, and fiscal leadership to the Ammerman Campus. She promotes a campus culture which is student-centered and welcoming, with a high level of support for students, faculty, staff, and community members. She is an advocate for community colleges, for diversity, equity and inclusion, educational access and attainment, philanthropy, and workforce development at local and state levels. She is a 2021 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellow applicant and a recipient of the National Academic Advising Research Award.

She has contributed to the success of educational institutions in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, including those that are two-year and four-year, union and non-union, public and private, multi-campus and statewide systems. Prior to joining Suffolk, Dr. Rios-Knauf served as the Dean of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer for Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), a Connecticut State College and University (CSCU) institution with campuses in Waterbury and Danbury, CT; she served as Dean for the Division of Graduate and Evening Adult Undergraduate Programs for all satellite campuses at the four-year Albertus Magnus College (AMC) in New Haven, CT; as Executive Director of Academic Affairs for Springfield College (SC) in Massachusetts with satellite campuses across seven states; as Registrar for Saint Joseph College (SJC) in Connecticut; and as Director of Academic Advising for Rochester

Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York State. Her leadership has advanced strategic priorities in support of student success, operational efficiency, and organizational culture change.

Among her educational contributions, Irene also teaches for the University of Hartford as an adjunct professor now primarily serving on dissertation committees for students researching community college and advising topics; serves as a team leader for Achieving the Dream at SUNY Suffolk; voluntarily serves on the Suffolk County Legislative Council for the revitalization of the marine industry on Long Island; and serves on the System-wide State University of New York (SUNY) reopening council.

Dr. Rios-Knauf holds doctoral degree from the University of Hartford in Connecticut, and a master's and bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.