

## **Biography for Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer**

Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer is a distinguished leader in higher education with over 20 years of experience dedicated to expanding access and opportunity for students, particularly those who are the first in their families to attend college. She currently serves as the inaugural Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at College of the Mainland, a comprehensive community college serving Galveston County in Texas.

A champion for student success, Dr. Brewer cultivates environments that prioritize student achievement and foster the realization of individual goals. She has a proven track record of success in academic and student affairs leadership, including serving as the college's accreditation liaison officer and launching impactful initiatives such as an 8-Week Course Schedule, a Quality Enhancement Plan, new allied health programs, and workforce partnerships.

Dr. Brewer's extensive experience spans single and multi-campus institutions, including large community college systems with enrollments exceeding 50,000 students. She is a seasoned leader with expertise in managing substantial budgets and generating significant new funding for institutional priorities. Throughout her career, she has secured millions of dollars for multiple colleges, enabling strategic investments in student success, innovative academic programs, and critical infrastructure.

Previously, as Vice President for Student Services at College of the Mainland, Dr. Brewer oversaw multiple student support departments and led efforts that resulted in a 30% enrollment increase within a three-year period.

Dr. Brewer's unwavering dedication to educational excellence and her proven ability to lead with vision and integrity make her a powerful advocate for the advancement of higher education and student success.

An Aspen Institute Rising Presidential Fellow, Dr. Brewer holds a Ph.D. in Education Leadership, Management, and Policy from Seton Hall University, a Master of Arts in Counseling from Trinity Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park.