

Introducing Dr. Tonya Drake

Biography

Personal biography was provided by the candidate.



A leader in higher learning, Dr. Tonya Drake has dedicated her career to expanding access to high-quality, career-focused education. Drake has a strong commitment to education and student success. Her work is guided by the belief that higher learning transforms lives and she holds deep convictions rooted in equity and inclusion that education be accessible especially to those who have traditionally been under-served or excluded from participating in higher education.

She serves as Chancellor and Regional Vice President for Western Governors University overseeing the strategic direction for nine states: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

She has extensive experience in leadership positions and more than 25 years of experience in higher education, including:

- Chancellor and Regional Vice President, Western Governors University
- Vice President for College Relations and Advancement at Edmonds College
- Chief Diversity Officer at Edmonds College
- Vice President and Dean of Student Success at Shoreline Community College

Administrative positions at Maricopa Community College District, Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona State University, and the University of Washington.

Drake holds a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Policy Studies and Master of Education from Arizona State University, a Bachelor of Arts in Business from University of Washington, and an Associate degree from Lower Columbia College.

Drake earned the Certificate of Leader Development for National Security and Strategy from the National Security Seminar at the U.S. Army War College. She received the Advancing Equity Award from WGU Pride Owls Employee Resource Group and received the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Associated Students of Edmonds Community College. In 2019, she was named among Seattle Business magazine's "Daring Women" and featured on the cover.