



Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, D.A.

Vice President for Student Services
Northern Virginia Community College

Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover is the Vice President of Student Services at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). NOVA is the largest public educational institution in Virginia and the second-largest community college in the United States, comprised of more than 75,000 students and 2,600 faculty and staff members. NOVA is also one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the United States, with a student body consisting of individuals from more than 180 countries.

Frances has more than 25 years of experience working with diverse student populations in K-16 settings and has a proven track record of creating strategies to improve student success, as well as expertise in organizational management and implementation of strategic integrations. Some of the areas that Frances is leading are: college affordability, equity & access, holistic student support, and enrollment management.

Before joining NOVA, Frances served as the Associate Vice-Chancellor for special programs and success at Houston Community College (HCC). She provided leadership for programs supporting student access, equity and success. Frances and her colleagues at HCC gained national acclaim for their community and student-focused response to the tragedy and significant challenges presented by Hurricane Harvey. She also implemented a community service and outreach program coined as “HCC Serves.”

Throughout her career in higher education, Frances has championed efforts in cultivating untapped student potential. In addition to NOVA and HCC, she worked at four other community colleges and served, at the national level, in workforce and academic support for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). She also worked on national projects designed to engage students in their communities through service-learning and civic engagement, facilitated faculty development and instructional technology programs.

Frances currently serves on the Commission on Structured Pathways for AACC and has been a leader in focusing on the fundamental needs barriers which limit student success such as housing and food insecurity. Frances has been appointed by the Virginia Community College System to co-chair the Power of Possible (P²) taskforce to study the non-academic challenges that impede student success in Virginia.

As a first-generation college graduate, Frances considers her family roots as her strength and they serve as a daily reminder of the sacrifices previous generations made to pave the path for access and success. In 2014, she was selected for the National Community College Hispanic Leadership Fellows program. She is also an inaugural Melinda and Bill Gates Scholar recipient and a alum of the Leadership Prince William Virginia Leadership program.

Frances is a native Texan, a United States Marine Corps spouse, a mother of seven children and a grandmother of two. She holds a Doctorate in Education from George Mason University, a Master’s degree from Northern Arizona University and a B.S. from Texas A&M University.

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