



Tara Blackwell

**First Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs
Southside Virginia Community College**

Raised in the Bronx, New York, Tara Y. Blackwell has a Ph.D. in Education (Community College Leadership) from Walden University. She also has a Master of Arts in English from the University of Northern Iowa and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Johnson C. Smith University, a Historically Black College/University located in Charlotte, N.C. In April 2011, she completed her dissertation, “A Change is Gonna Come: Critical Race Theory and African American Community College Faculty Narratives” through Walden University. Dr. Blackwell spent more than 13 years as a community college instructor/associate professor in English before assuming administrative/leadership responsibilities.

She currently serves as the first Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Southside Virginia Community College. Before becoming a VP, she served as the Dean of Mathematics, Physical Science and Technology at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA and before that as Dean for Arts, Communication and Social Sciences at Kishwaukee Community College in Illinois. Before beginning her administrative career, Dr. Blackwell was a tenured faculty in English at Oakton Community College, located in Des Plaines Illinois and a full-time Communications instructor for 7 years at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa.