

Name: NITHYA GOVINDASAMY
Organization: Advance CTE
Title: Senior Advisor



Nithya currently serves as Senior Advisor at Advance CTE and leads and manages key organization-wide, highly visible initiatives focused on increasing and promoting equitable access to high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE) for all learners. She is responsible for Advance CTE's external equity strategy and oversees and facilitates workforce development, education and equity initiatives, such as *CTE Without Limits*, the Stimulus Collaborative, and the Opportunity Gap Analysis workshops. She provides technical assistance to state and local education leaders, national and state CTE leadership and supports policy and implementation.

Prior to joining the Advance CTE team, Nithya was the Director of *Workplace Learning* for P-TECH and Early College Programs (a CTE and equity program) at Dallas Independent School District, where she led the strategy and implementation for workplace learning programming and activities districtwide to prepare students for the future workforce. Nithya also served as the *Dean of the Work Program* at Paul Quinn College (a HBCU located in southern Dallas), where she led the implementation of their Urban Work College model, which provided pre-professional, work experience and skill development for minority, first-generation college students through paid internships from local corporate and non-profit partners.

Prior to relocating to Dallas, Nithya was the *Assistant Deputy Chancellor of Higher Education & Workforce Initiatives* at the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). During her tenure at ODHE, she served on the Governor's Workforce Transformation team and helped design and implement innovative workforce education programs to address employer critical skill needs in collaboration with the University System of Ohio. She also has corporate communications experience working with Nationwide Insurance, where she supported the launch of key talent acquisition strategies and enterprise-level initiatives. Early in her career, Nithya managed Department of Labor funds and workforce development programs that served at-risk populations both at the local and state level.

Nithya holds a B.A. in Political Science (Pre-law) from Capital University and a M.S. in Marketing and Communications from Franklin University. Nithya currently resides in Dallas, Texas



Dr. Walter Kahumoku III is currently the Executive Assistant to the Chancellor at UH West O’ahu and the Co-director of the Doctorate in Education in Professional Educational Practice. A former school administrator, high school teacher, and director of forensics, Dr. Kahumoku has dedicated his work to improving the wellbeing of Hawaiian learners through education. His publications and presentations advocate for cultural, linguistic, and indigenous approaches that advance relevant, rigorous, relationship-based, and responsibility-focused

leading, teaching, and learning. As a researcher, policy analysis, grant writer, and higher education administrator, he is called upon for his knowledge of curriculum development, instructional strategies, assessment, professional development, community integration, educational policy, and educational systems transformation that improve the ways in which native students are educated.



Charlotte E. Davidson is Diné and a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, also known as The Three Affiliated Tribes. She is the daughter of Nora (Yazzie) and Wilbur Wilkinson, Sr. Her maternal grandparents are Sally (Manygoats) and Kee Horseherder-Yazzie. Her paternal grandparents are Molly (Wolf) and Ernest P. Wilkinson. Concerning kinship relations, she is of the Tó'aheedlíinii (Water Flows Together clan), born for the Waterbuster People. Her maternal grandfather's clan is Kiníichíí'níi (Red House clan), and her paternal grandfather is Flint Knife.

She earned her B.A. degree in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University and her Ed.M. Degree and Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her professional experience in higher education includes working in American Indian student services, Native American affairs, diversity administration, and teaching in the fields of education and American Indian Studies.

Dr. Davidson presents nationally on Indigenous higher education, Indigenous matrilineal pedagogies, and place-based relationalities. She has written and co-authored chapters in *Beyond the Asterisk: Understanding Native Students in Higher Education*; *Indigenous Leadership in Higher Education*; *Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education*; and *A Better Future: The Role of Higher Education for Displaced and Marginalised People*. She is a lecturer for the Department of Student Affairs Administration and Leadership in Higher Education, University of Wisconsin La Crosse, and is the Indigenous Relations Advisor in NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education). Dr. Davidson was recently selected to serve as the director of the Native American House at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.