

Gaby Hawat, Ed.D.

President

Dynamic executive leader with extensive experience driving transformative strategies and leading multi-million-dollar initiatives in higher education, corporate, and public sectors.

Skilled in developing and executing innovative strategies that enhance organizational performance, increase revenue, and drive sustainable growth. Expert at building and nurturing high-performing teams, fostering partnerships, and securing grants and funding from local, state, and federal sources. Proven track record of integrating cutting-edge technologies into educational curricula to increase employability and enhance institutional competitiveness. Adept at advising senior leaders on restructuring, financial stability, and workforce development initiatives. Proficient in strategic planning, financial oversight, and aligning operational goals with long-term institutional visions. Known for servant leadership, fostering transparency, and encouraging intellectual curiosity within teams and organizations. Recognized for exceptional ability to navigate complex, multi-stakeholder environments, driving both financial and academic success.

Areas of Expertise

- ◆ Strategic Planning & Execution
- ◆ Budgeting & Financial Oversight
- ◆ Public Relations & Outreach
- ◆ Cybersecurity & IT Integration
- ◆ International Partnerships & Collaborations
- ◆ Institutional Restructuring & Expansion
- ◆ Government Relations & Partnerships
- ◆ Revenue Generation & Enhancement
- ◆ Educational Program Development
- ◆ Workforce Development Initiatives
- ◆ Cross-functional Team Leadership
- ◆ Grant Acquisition & Management

Key Accomplishments

- **Promoted innovation and advanced strategic goals** by developing a wide network of connections with professional experts and government agencies, including the US Department of Homeland Security.
- **Created opportunities for underrepresented groups in higher education** by leading the development of an all-women's college within the largest all-women university in the world, driving inclusive growth.
- **Strengthened global partnerships in cybersecurity education and workforce development** by leading the National CyberWatch Center team to Europe, expanding chapters within NATO.
- **Advanced national cybersecurity education initiatives** by chairing the NVC board for the National CyberWatch Center, overseeing nearly 450 institutions.
- **Generated substantial funding for institutional growth and program enhancements** by securing outside revenue through successful negotiations of training deals with businesses and governments.
- **Optimized financial operations and enhanced institutional reputations** by advising multiple institutions on strategies to increase exposure and improve financial efficiencies.
- **Increased student success through strategic initiatives** by securing numerous state and federal grants to develop curricula, support faculty and staff, and implement institutional improvements.
- **Ensured institutional sustainability and financial accountability** by overseeing operational budgets of up to \$42M, executing strategic budget reductions, and optimizing resource allocation.
- **Expanded educational opportunities and facilitated student transfer pathways** by negotiating and signing articulation agreements and partnerships with multiple universities in the USA, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and internationally.

Professional Experience

Catalyst Partners, Washington, D.C.
Principal

2017 – Present

Contribute to firm-wide consulting efforts supporting clients across aviation, public infrastructure, and professional sports sectors in areas such as grants strategy, cybersecurity, and regulatory compliance. Provide input on customized solutions related to business development, interagency coordination, and talent strategy as part of cross-functional client service teams.

- Played a pivotal role in delivering firm services that helped multiple clients in improving federal grant readiness and compliance alignment.
- Established business relationships and partnerships between various international companies, resulting in expanded engagement opportunities for the firm.

The National Cyberwatch Center, Washington, D.C.
NVC/Board Chairman

2017 – Present

Direct multi-million-dollar initiatives supporting national cybersecurity education and workforce development for over 450 higher education institutions. Guide the expansion of cybersecurity chapters across NATO countries, fostering international collaboration and enhancing global cybersecurity education.

- Expanded cybersecurity education network nationally and globally, establishing NATO chapters and driving workforce development across international boundaries.
- Drove successful government grant programs and cybersecurity enhancements, resulting in significant operational improvements and risk mitigation for clients.

Led comprehensive assessments of colleges and universities, developing strategies, recommendations, and solutions in collaboration with senior leadership and providing executive advisory services. Fostered strategic partnerships and collaborations to expand Kaufman Hall's market presence, contributing to thought leadership through multiple published blogs on higher education finance.

- Published the following blogs on financial literacy and institutional performance, enhancing Kaufman Hall's influence in higher education financial strategy:
 - "How to Promote Financial Literacy Within Your Institution" – May 31, 2024
 - "Financial Literacy: A Leadership Perspective" – April 26, 2024
 - "Do You Really Know Your Institution's Financial Position?" – March 28, 2024
 - "Athletics Might Boost Enrollment, but How About Financial Performance?" – January 26, 2024
 - "Regaining Control: Risk Avoidance in Higher Education" – September 29, 2023

Accenture, Tampa, FL (Remote)
Strategy and Growth Lead – Higher Education

2022 – 2023

Headed strategy and growth initiatives for the higher education sector within the South Market Unit. Cultivated key partnerships and expanded Accenture's client base within the education sector.

- Delivered significant market expansion, securing collaborations with major higher education institutions.

University of Providence, Great Falls, MT
Executive Vice President | Chief Operating Officer | Chief Financial Officer

2019 – 2021

Spearheaded strategic planning, finance, operations, HR, IT services, security, public relations, marketing, and events management functions. Led initiatives to develop in-demand healthcare degree programs plan, aligning offerings with market needs and workforce demands.

- Implemented budget reductions, effectively managing a **\$20M+** budget while ensuring operational efficiency.

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL
Senior Vice President for Operations and Global Initiatives

2016 – 2017

Provided strategic oversight and operational support to ensure seamless execution of university-wide initiatives and services. Led operations across Facilities, Sustainability, Transportation, Campus Security, IT, Telecommunications, Instructional Technologies, Online Learning, Continuing Education, English Language Studies, and Global Initiatives.

- Oversaw a **\$42M** budget and directed a team of 750, including 10 direct reports, across diverse operational areas.

Additional Experience

Valencia College, Orlando, FL (1988 – 2016)

Special Assistant to the President | Senior Executive for Strategic Initiatives & Economic Development | Dean, Architecture, Engineering, & Technology | Chair, Business, Computer Technology, Engineering, and Public Services | Tenured Professor | Senior Project Director, Senior Project Director for New Campus Initiatives

Education & Credentials

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) - Specialization in Higher Education Leadership | Nova Southeastern University

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) | Florida Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) | Florida Institute of Technology

Management Development Program | Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

Faculty Appointments & Teaching Experience

Professor, Leadership | University of Providence | 2019–2021

Professor, Education and Interdisciplinary Science | Florida Institute of Technology

Professor, Engineering, and Technology | Valencia College

- Instructed undergraduate courses in engineering and technology subjects.
- Mentored students in academic and career development.

Adjunct Faculty, Math and Science | Eastern Florida State College

- Taught foundational mathematics courses to undergraduate students.

Adjunct Faculty, Electrical and Computer Engineering | Florida Institute of Technology | 1985–1987

- Delivered specialized courses in electrical and computer engineering.
- Facilitated laboratory sessions and provided academic support.
- Assisted in program development and student evaluations.

Executive Advisory Experience

Special Advisor to the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer | Florida Tech

- Provided strategic insights and guidance on university operations and executive decision-making.

Senior Advisor to the Rector for Strategic Initiatives & Global Partnerships | Princess Nora University

- Advised on the development of international partnerships and academic collaborations.

Special Advisor to the Dean of Engineering and Vice President/CIO | University of Miami

- Assisted in shaping technological strategies and partnerships in the engineering school.

Memberships & Affiliations

- **Member**, The Registry (Gold Standard for Interim Placement)
- **Director**, Engineering Technology Council (ASEE)
- **Executive Board Member**, Engineering Technology Leadership Institute
- **Member**, Metro Orlando Economic Development Board, representing Valencia College and Florida Tech
- **Stakeholders Board Member**, Enterprise Florida
- **Governing Board Member**, Technology Industry Development, Economic Development Commission
- **Core Team Member**, Florida High Tech Corridor
- **Board of Trustees Member**, Orlando Science Center
- **Member**, Florida Engineering Technology Leadership Council
- **Member**, Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society)
- **Member**, Florida Innovation Caucus

Awards & Recognition

- National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award
- National Collegiate Engineering and Leadership Awards
- Scholastic All-American Award
- Partnership Award with the Department of Homeland Security

Selected State & Federal Grants Awarded/Supervised

National Science Foundation

- Tech-4 Electronics Workforce Development System (with Florida High Tech Corridor, UCF, USF, and others)
- Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarships
- Partnerships to Enhance Student Success in Information Technology
- Enhancing Learning in Electronics Engineering Technology
- Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Curriculum Expansion

State Grants

- Florida High Tech Corridor Council - Manufacturing Technology
- Computer Engineering Technology (Networking)
- Office Systems Technology
- Computer Programming and Analysis
- Silicon Technology
- Drafting and Design and Building Construction Technology

Selected Partnerships & Relationships

Disney World | Universal Studios | Northrop Grumman | Cirent Semiconductor | Siemens | Department of Homeland Security/TSA | University of Florida | Florida Polytechnic University | University of Miami | Florida Institute of Technology | Georgia Tech | University of British Columbia | Princess Sumaya University for Technology | Numerous other global academic and corporate institutions

Nationalities & Languages

- American, French, and Lebanese nationalities
- Fluent in English, French, and Arabic