

Sarah K. Hamsher

ACADEMIC LEADER | PROGRAM INNOVATION | ADULT & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Experienced academic leader with 15+ years of progressive leadership in higher education, currently serving in a division-level role with oversight of a 22-program portfolio within adult and professional studies. Proven ability to lead faculty and academic leaders, strengthen program quality, and design innovative, workforce-aligned learning models that support diverse learners.

Committed to Christ-centered higher education, integrating faith, academic excellence, and service to prepare students for meaningful impact in their professions and communities.

SELECTED LEADERSHIP IMPACT

- ☐ Provide academic leadership for a 22-program portfolio, aligning curriculum, faculty leadership, and delivery models with institutional mission and workforce needs
- ☐ Supervise 8 department chairs who lead 80+ adjunct faculty, strengthening leadership capacity and instructional quality across distributed programs
- ☐ Co-led strategic oversight and resource allocation for a state-funded Science of Reading initiative, aligning outcomes with certification benchmarks and workforce readiness
- ☐ Designed and launched 5 academic programs and 27 online courses, expanding access for adult and professional learners
- ☐ Spearheaded initiatives to increase retention of candidates of color across programs through targeted faculty engagement and early-course interventions
- ☐ Co-architected program evaluation systems generating 50+ measurable improvements across academic programs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Indiana Wesleyan University — Marion, IN

Division Chair | Professor | 2025–Present

Provide strategic and operational leadership for a multi-program academic division within the College of Adult and Professional Studies.

- ☐ Lead a 22-program academic portfolio, ensuring alignment with institutional mission, accreditation standards, and workforce needs
- ☐ Supervise and develop department chairs and faculty leaders, fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement
- ☐ Guide program alignment and preparation for state and national accreditation reviews
- ☐ Partner across academic and operational units to support program quality, student success, and institutional priorities

- Support resource planning and program decision-making aligned with enrollment, retention, and long-term sustainability goals
- Promote instructional excellence and faculty development in the online learning environments

Department Chair | Professor | 2016–2025

Led program development, curriculum design, and faculty leadership within teacher education and adult learning programs.

- Designed and launched 5 academic programs and 27 online courses, expanding flexible pathways for adult learners
- Led curriculum development aligned with state standards, accreditation requirements, and evidence-based instructional practices
- Built and implemented program assessment and evaluation systems, translating data into strategic program improvements
- Increased student retention and satisfaction through program redesign and faculty engagement strategies
- Fostered faculty development and instructional quality across distributed teaching teams
- Collaborated with university partners and external stakeholders to strengthen program relevance and impact

Malone University — Canton, OH

Director of Assessment & Accreditation | Assistant Professor | 2011–2015 Led institutional assessment and accreditation processes for educator preparation programs.

- Directed accreditation efforts resulting in national and state program approval
 - Designed systems aligning curriculum, outcomes, and institutional standards
 - Supported faculty in implementing evidence-based instructional and assessment practices
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EDUCATION

- PhD — Curriculum & Instruction, University of Akron
- MA — Education (Reading Intervention Specialist), Malone University
- BA — Elementary Education, Cum Laude, Grove City College