

# Keynote Speaker



CHELSE DEPAOLO-LARA

CASPER COLLEGE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT  
MANAGEMENT

**Chelse DePaolo-Lara is a proud Casper native and currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at Casper College.**

**As the founder and first president of Casper's inaugural Rotaract Club of Casper: Young Professionals Network, Chelse helped create a space where young professionals could network, serve, develop leadership skills, and go full boss mode. This is a passion that continues to drive her work today.**

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## **Featured Keynote Chelse DePaolo-Lara**

Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management  
Casper College

Chelse DePaolo-Lara is a proud Casper native and currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at Casper College. She has been a familiar face on campus for 19 years which, in Gen Y terms, is basically forever. Chelse has worn many hats at the college, serves on a variety of committees, and is fluent in Boomer, Gen X, Y, Z, and is actively working on mastering Gen Alpha.

A Missouri Valley College alumna, Chelse attended college on a volleyball scholarship back when playlists were burned onto CDs and TikTok was just the sound a clock made. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and later leveled up by completing a Master of Science in Organizational Management from Chadron State College, all without the aid of ChatGPT.

As the founder and first president of Casper's inaugural Rotaract Club of Casper: Young Professionals Network, Chelse helped create a space where young professionals could network, serve, develop leadership skills, and go full boss mode. It was during this time that she recognized the growing need for different generations in the workplace to come together and better understand one another. This is a passion that continues to drive her work today.

Off the clock, Chelse is living her best cross-generational lifestyle. In the summer, she's offline and camping, hiking, and traveling with her husband and two young children (who think walkie-talkies are retro cool). In the fall and winter, she switches gears to read, snowshoe, ski, and take at least one vacation to a location with palm trees.

# Keynote Speaker

DR. WENDOLYN DAVIS

AACRAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE

Dr. Wendolyn Davis is Executive Director of Pathway Alignment at Chattanooga State Community College. Dr. Davis was honored with the [Thomas A. Bilger Award](#) from the American Association of College Registrars (AACRAO). Dr. Davis's selection reflects her unwavering commitment to excellence and her influence on shaping policies that impact students nationwide.



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## **Featured Keynote**

### **Dr. Wendolyn Davis**

Chattanooga State's Executive Director of Pathway Alignment  
AACRAO Board of Directors Vice President at Large

Dr. Wendolyn Davis is Executive Director of Pathway Alignment at Chattanooga State Community College. The cabinet-level position focuses on creating clear and effective aligned pathways to high-demand, family-sustainable-wage careers available within Chattanooga State service area. Dr. Davis leads the effort to develop seamless transition opportunities, career-aligned academic programs, and a supportive educational environment.

Prior to joining Chattanooga State in June 2023, she held the position of Director of the Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for four (4) years, Assistant Director of Transfer Student Services at Central Michigan University for nearly seven (7) years and an Education & Training Specialist at Grand Rapids Community College for two (2) years.

Dr. Davis taught TRNS 201 – Transitioning to Rocky Top, a UT transfer transition course led by the Office of Academic Success First Year Programs and served as an Intercultural Diversity Inventory (IDI) Advisory Board Member and Qualified Administrator (QA).

Dr. Davis is active in the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). She is the current Vice President at Large and continues to serve as a member of the Transfer and Articulation Committee. Her previous AACRAO leadership roles include immediate past chair of the Black Caucus, past chair of the Nominations & Elections committee, and co-director of the 2023 and 2024 Technology and Transfer Virtual Summit. She has served on the Public Policy Advisory Group, has been a contributor to AACRAO Connect, and has presented at Annual Meetings. Additionally, she is a past-president and former board of director's chair of the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO).

Dr. Davis was honored with the [Thomas A. Bilger Award](#) from the American Association of College Registrars (AACRAO). The Thomas A. Bilger Award is one of AACRAO's highest honors, celebrating individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the

field of enrollment management and student services. Dr. Davis's selection reflects her unwavering commitment to excellence and her influence on shaping policies that impact students nationwide.

"I've always believed that leadership is about service advocacy, lifting others up, creating pathways, and ensuring that every student has access to the education and resources they need to thrive," she said. "Receiving this award reinforces my commitment to this mission, and I'm grateful for the mentors and colleagues who have shaped my journey."

Dr. Davis holds a PhD in Organization and Management, an MBA in Human Resource Management, a BS in Psychology, and an associate degree in general studies. Previous experience includes TRiO Programs, Child Welfare (International and Domestic), and Workforce Development.