



JUAN M. LÓPEZ, PH.D.

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I am a higher education professional with a wide range of experience in academia and industry. I hold a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, with over twenty years of academic, research, outreach, management, leadership, manufacturing, and industrial experience. I currently serve as the Dean of the School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, and Applied Science at the ITCC South Bend-Elkhart campus where in addition to the expected Dean duties, I am actively participating in campus development, grant writing, fundraising, and integration of workforce development as key strategies in supporting the institution's strength, stability, and impact as a regional partner. I have led research groups, academic departments, the entire graduate engineering faculty at my prior institution in creating a new Industry 4.0 degree, reported to three vice presidents on various strategic projects for internationalization, accreditation, and outreach. I founded and served on the boards of international research networks and scientific dissemination groups focused on making academia a more active and engaged social actor.

From my first management experience rescuing a failing restaurant through my current service roles, I have learned from many kinds of leaders in times of crisis, growth, challenge, and transition. While each has left me with unique and profound lessons, the most significant lesson I have learned throughout has been the importance of people as the core of each mission, strategy, and outcome. In academic endeavors, from the way we teach a single class, design a department or curriculum, set the strategic goals for an entire institution, engage stakeholders, to the way we handle faculty, staff, students in crisis – recognizing the immense and irreplaceable value of each life that will be impacted by our actions, decisions, words, and choices must remain an ongoing and permanent commitment, and it is one which I renew daily.

I have an unwavering focus on finding ways to open more doors for others to rise to the challenge of building a more fulfilling and impactful professional life.