



Dr. Debbie Blanke

*Retired Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

Dr. Blanke served as the chief academic officer and chief student affairs officer for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. She provided leadership through direct work with institutional presidents, chief academic officers, chief student affairs officers, and others at all institutions in the state through key advisory groups including the Council of Presidents, Council on Instruction, Council on Student Affairs, Faculty Advisory Council, and Student Advisory Board. Dr. Blanke was charged with responsibilities related to all academic degree offerings, academic policy, and statewide academic and student affairs initiatives, as well as providing agency leadership for division departmental budgets in excess of \$10 million in operations and \$100 million in scholarships and grants.

Dr. Blanke represented the State Regents on academic issues with institutions, agencies, and organizations within Oklahoma, the region, and the nation, as well as provided advocacy and information as needed related to legislation under consideration. She served as the Chancellor's designee for the Senate Bill 292 Concurrent Enrollment Task Force researching good state policy for concurrent/dual enrollment opportunities for high school students in Oklahoma, as well as served on the Dual Enrollment Advisory Panel for the Southern Regional Education Board based in Atlanta. Dr. Blanke also collaborated directly with K-12 and career technical education on efforts that lead to postsecondary success and completion. She led Reach Higher, Oklahoma's statewide adult degree completion initiative, and provided oversight for UpSkillOK, Oklahoma's statewide micro-credential project for workforce development. Dr. Blanke also provided supervision for the Online Consortium of Oklahoma that provides focused work on Oklahoma's online education and open educational resources initiatives to expand high quality online teaching and learning statewide.

Prior to joining the State Regents, Debbie held various positions at Oklahoma institutions, including one research university, two regional universities and one community college. Dr. Blanke earned her doctorate degree in Higher Education from Oklahoma State University, her Master's degree from Cameron University, and her baccalaureate degree from Oklahoma State University. She has over 35 years of administration and college teaching experience in Oklahoma. In 2013, the Journal Record's Woman of the Year program selected Dr. Blanke as a "50 Making A Difference" honoree for her role as a community leader, specifically for her work with adult students returning to college, and in 2014, the Oklahoma Women in Higher Education Executive Board created a graduate student scholarship in her name for her work to advance women into leadership roles in higher education. Debbie will celebrate 35 years of marriage in 2023, and she and her husband have one adult son who is a working professional in Austin, Texas.