



## **Dr. David Potash**

David Potash, PhD, is president of Wilbur Wright College, an independently accredited open access community college with two campuses in the City Colleges of Chicago system. Under his leadership the 85-year old community college in northwest Chicago has substantially increased student success, with significant gains in retention and student completion. Wright has created new degrees and certificates, crafted and implemented equity plans, enrollment plans and strategic plans, heightened community service and civic engagement, grown career programs and apprenticeships, and taken major strides in serving the city's growing Hispanic population. Wright's newly established Center of Excellence in Engineering and Computer Science has received national attention through its innovation and student accomplishments. Wright is a well-respected anchor college with deep ties to the community. In 2020 Wright received the Padron Award for institutional transformation.

Growing up in northern New Jersey, Potash traveled to Texas for a BA at Rice University. He returned to the NY/NJ metropolitan area to start his academic career at NYU, where he earned an MA in History while working full-time. He earned a PhD in history from Cambridge University before joining Baruch College, CUNY, where he played a major role in the college's transformation. A similar position at Hunter College, CUNY, followed, and then service outside of Boston as Curry College's first Chief Academic Officer. Opportunity, access, equity and quality have been the consistent values driving his career.

President Potash is a frequent presenter at conferences and events. His current affiliations include board membership for Campus Compact, Community College Presidents for Democracy, Presidents for Latino Student Success, Rice University's Teaching and Learning Center advisory board, GetSet advisory board, and the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce. He is active in the Chicago community and on social media. Potash has taught US history classes and misses the classroom.

Married for more than twenty years, President Potash has an adult daughter and a college-age son. He's an avid cook, an enthusiastic bicyclist, and an aspiring sketchbook artist.