



Dr. Lori Lander has dedicated her career to helping students, staff, and institutions thrive. With over two decades of experience in student affairs leadership, talent development, and strategic planning, she is committed to creating inclusive, data-informed, and human-centered experiences that foster success for students and professionals alike.

As the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Projects and Initiatives at the University of Arkansas, Lori leads division-wide efforts to enhance supervision, leadership development, workplace well-being, and professional growth. She has a passion for developing future student affairs leaders, ensuring that institutions are not just places of learning, but communities where people feel valued and empowered.

Lori's research and professional focus center on belonging, student engagement, and leadership development. Her scholarship includes contributions to *New Directions for Student Services*, where she explored organizational change through Appreciative Inquiry, and her doctoral dissertation, which examined the faculty experience in living-learning programs. She frequently presents on topics such as student belonging, first-generation student success, crisis leadership, and assessment-driven decision-making, including at NASPA, the Center for First-Generation Student Success, and regional leadership summits.

Throughout her career, she has served in key leadership roles at the University of Oregon, University of Colorado, and Kansas State University, leading large-scale projects in student affairs operations, strategic planning, and crisis response. She currently serves as the Regional Director for NASPA IV-West, where she is shaping the future of student affairs leadership through mentorship and professional development initiatives.

Lori holds a Ph.D. in Education and Human Resource Studies from Colorado State University, a Master's in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arkansas, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Lyon College. A first-generation college graduate turned higher ed leader, she is committed to ensuring that students from all backgrounds find a sense of belonging and purpose in their educational journeys.

Above all, Lori believes in the power of connection, storytelling, and data-driven innovation to drive change in higher education. Whether she's mentoring new professionals, designing leadership programs, or advocating for student success, she's always eager to explore new ways to make higher education a more inclusive, engaging, and transformational space for everyone.