



Cecil Eric Kirkland
Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer
Salem University

Dr. Kirkland is the Rector of Zetta University. As the Chief Academic Officer, he is charged with diverse administrative responsibilities. He is appointed a University Professor, who has credentials and experience teaching across multiple disciplines. Dr. Kirkland has been with Salem University since 2008, where he is Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer, appointed by the Board of Trustees. At Salem he is Professor of Business and Education and Consulting Professor of Biological Sciences and Criminal Justice. He has over three decades' experience in higher education. Dr. Kirkland has led many projects developing new degree programs and advancing the University's commitment to the liberal arts consistent with its founding principles in 1888. Dr. Kirkland has added over 50 new programs of study and specializations, with over 90% available online.

Prior to joining Salem, Dr. Kirkland was Professor and Vice President of North American Operations for the University of Management and Technology in Arlington, Virginia. There he established the school of arts and sciences comprising ten online degree programs, several master's degrees, and the USA's first Doctor of Business Administration in Project Management accredited by the Global Accreditation Center of the Project Management Institute. Prior to UMT, he was Provost and Vice President of Education for Grantham College of Engineering in Slidell, Louisiana. There he led the academic and financial turnaround of the institution, launching eight new programs and moving the institution to distance education.

He earned his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Virginia, specializing in research methodology and program evaluation, with multidisciplinary areas in education, reading, psychology, and linguistics. At UVA he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Physiological Psychology and a Master of Education in Counseling. He earned a Master of Business Administration at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy from Schiller International University. He has an executive certificate in Acquisition Management from the University of Management and Technology. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®).

He has been engaged in educational research and program evaluation for over four decades. In addition to his multidisciplinary contributions, his specialties include designing field experiments and program evaluations, conducting and interpreting statistical analyses, and improving scholarly writing. He has a focus on special education research and assistive technology development to benefit those with handicapping conditions. Most recently he has been engaged in a number of research projects in biochemistry and biomedicine, focusing on cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, microbiota, and holistic therapies.

Dr. Kirkland has been generous with his time with public service at the local, regional, and

national levels. Locally, he has served on various nonprofit boards. Regionally, he served on the board of the West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter of the Project Management Institute.

Nationally, he has served on the Board of the American Association of University Administrators, including chair. He has served as an accreditation evaluator for several US Department of Education recognized commissions. He has numerous publications, patents, presentations, and grants.