

Dr. James W. Ross



Dr. James W. Ross has served 25 years in executive leadership as a President and Vice President in community colleges. He served as Vice President of Advancement and Public Affairs at Eastern Florida State College, a large college with 25,000 students and four campuses, where he oversaw 184 employees, more than half of all college departments, and managed \$40 million in annual operating budgets. He served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Development at Piedmont Virginia Community College where he led record-setting fundraising and adult enrollment registration campaigns.

Dr. Ross most recently served seven years as President of Pamlico Community College. He inspired employees and led dramatic collegewide improvements that earned the national number 1 ranking in the U.S. for student success. WalletHub ranked the college number 1 in 2021 and again in 2023 among all community colleges nationwide in student education outcomes of graduation, retention, persistence, and others. Smart Asset ranked it the number 2 best overall community college in the U.S. in 2019 and again in 2021. Federal data on two-year colleges nationwide was analyzed to determine both of these rankings. Dr. Ross attributes his team-oriented leadership style resulting in a remarkable 95% of employees with high morale as being the foundation for the dramatic improvements during his service as President.

Dr. Ross earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Slippery Rock University, his doctorate at Nova Southeastern University, and completed an acclaimed Harvard leadership development program in its Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Ross and his wife Pam come from a rural background and love living in rural communities. They are very thankful Pam is cancer-free after a determined fight against liver cancer that caused Dr. Ross to leave Pamlico Community College to help Pam fight it and provide support to her. Pam had been given only six months to live when she was diagnosed two years ago. The Rosses humbly thank God for this and for all their many amazing blessings.