

Denise Pearson

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Equity Initiatives

Denise Pearson joined SHEEO in February 2016. She serves as the vice president of academic affairs and equity initiatives. In this role, she works closely with chief academic officers on a wide range of policies and practices areas aligned with states' higher education goals and priorities. Dr. Pearson's portfolio of work includes a focus on minority serving institutions, teacher preparation, accreditation, and student learning. She also leads SHEEO's work around equity and inclusion across organizational and state policy and practice areas. Prior to joining SHEEO, Dr. Pearson worked for five years at Winston-Salem State University as a tenured professor of education and in a variety of leadership positions, including dean of the faculty of education and assistant provost of faculty affairs. She previously worked for the University of Denver as associate academic dean in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies for eight years. Pearson holds a Ph.D. in administration and supervision of education from Marquette University, an M.A. in conflict resolution from University of Denver, an M.S. in education administration from Concordia University, and a B.A. in human services from Pace University. Outside of her work, Dr. Pearson enjoys spending time with her family and exploring the wonders of veganism.