

RICHARD B. PAGAN, ED. D.

MINI-BIO

Dr. Richard Pagan is a native of Gary, Indiana and a first generation Hispanic college graduate. He is one of six children of parents who came to the United States from Puerto Rico seeking a better life for their family, and whose father retired as a steelworker after 28 years. Dr. Pagan served over 20 years on active duty in the United States Air Force reaching Senior Non-commissioned Officer status. He holds a doctorate degree in Education with a major in Higher Education Leadership, a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Science, a Bachelor of Science degree in General Education, and Associate of Science degrees in Avionics Technology and Occupational Instruction and Military Science.

Dr. Pagan began his academic career upon retiring from the United States Air Force. He was first drawn to teaching while serving in the Air Force as a Master Instructor teaching advanced avionics systems. He joined Fairmont State College (now Fairmont State University) in Fairmont, West Virginia as an instructor in the Aviation Department. While at Fairmont State College Dr. Pagan was the Program Coordinator for the Avionics Technology program which became part of the newly formed Pierpont Community and Technical College. Dr. Pagan rose to the rank of tenured full professor and serve on several institutional committees.

Upon leaving Pierpont Community and Technical College, Dr. Pagan accepted the position of Division Chair at Guilford Technical College in Greensboro, North Carolina. He directed and led the division that housed career-technical programs such as Aviation Maintenance Technology, Aviation Career Pilot Technology, Avionic Systems Technology, Automotive Technology (General, Ford ASSET, GM ASEP), Diesel and Transport Systems Technology, and Collision Repair Technology. He strengthened the division through program expansion, workforce development, and partnering with the transportation and aviation industries in the Triad region of North Carolina, He formed and led the Aviation Council of the Triad and served on the North Carolina Governor's Aviation Steering Committee.

Dr. Pagan continued his career and joined the National Aviation Academy, a sole proprietor, private for-profit institution, as Senior Vice President and Campus Director of the New England Campus in Concord, MA. As Senior Vice President, Dr. Pagan led the institution in achieving enrollment growth, increase in revenue, a successful re-accreditation through the Accrediting Council of Career Schools and Colleges, and a zero-finding financial audit.

In his current position as Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Pagan continues to serve students in fostering and promoting higher education through attaining post-secondary credentials in providing accessible, affordable and quality education and workforce training programs as well as student-centered support services. A strong believer in lifelong learning, he is an advocate for lifting people up through education and training and believes in and supports the mission of the community college of building a nation of learners through advancing America's Community Colleges.

As a side note, Dr. Pagan is an avid reader, enjoys running, loves to dance salsa, enjoys music and playing the congas. He especially enjoys spending time with his wife, Patricia, and family.