

James R. Dire, Ph.D.

Dr. James Dire has more than 30 years of higher education experience, including eight years at the University of Hawaii's Kauai Community College, where he served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

While on Kauai Island, Dire was active in the community as a member of the Kauai Economic Development Board, on the advisory board for Kauai High School, and as a member of the post-secondary education committee for the Keiki to Career Initiative (P-20). He has also served on the board of directors for the Kauai Educational Association for Science and Astronomy.

Dire currently serves as the chancellor of a health sciences college in Peoria, Illinois. Equally active in his Peoria community, Dire is a member of the Rotary Club of Peoria North, the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, the Peoria Chamber of Commerce CEO Council and Workforce Development Committee, and the Astronomical Society of Peoria.

Dr. Dire earned his doctoral and master's degrees in earth and planetary science from The Johns Hopkins University, and a master of science in physics and electrical engineering from the University of Central Florida. His extensive education in physical sciences and electrical engineering led him to active duty teaching positions at the U.S. Naval Academy in physics and oceanography and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in the disciplines of physics and astronomy. Dr. Dire served as a nuclear engineer in the U.S. Navy for five years.

A Saint Joseph, Missouri native, Dr. Dire earned a bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and another in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He currently lives in Dunlap, Illinois with his wife Sherry Lynn (who rears from Joshua, Texas) and two teenage daughters. Dr. Dire has an identical twin brother, who lives in San Antonio, and a son, who lives in Temple, Texas; both are active duty Army physicians.