

Jennifer Kent, Ed.D.

Dr. Jennifer Kent currently serves as the Senior Vice President at Ranger College and is in her 23rd year in education. She also serves as the doctoral cohort coordinator/ teaching professor for the John E. Roueche Center for Community College Leadership with Kansas State University, hosted on the Ranger College campus for the grow-your-own leadership program created to ensure a legacy of quality leaders in an area where recruiting and retaining educational leaders can be difficult.

Dr. Kent was selected to participate in the AACC's Future President's Institute in 2018, and was recognized in 2019 with the National NISOD Excellence Award. Most recently, Dr. Kent was named as a member of the 2020-2021 Aspen Institute's Rising Presidents Fellowship, which recruits and develops exceptional leaders—a cadre of diverse, student-success focused reformers who collectively can push the field forward with the goal of making a difference in communities by profoundly improving student access and success.

Prior to her transition to higher education, Dr. Kent worked in public education for 19 years, including 11 years as a secondary school/ district administrator. In her last five years as a high school principal, Dr. Kent's campus was named as one of the top high schools in the nation by US News & World Report. From her start in education as a teacher and coach in Port Lavaca, Texas, Dr. Kent has prioritized building positive relationships with students, staff, and community members to increase student success. She believes that training teachers and administrators to reach students, especially students in generational poverty, yields the best outcomes in changing lives for multiple generations.

Dr. Kent is a hands-on, high energy, positive leader who is focused on increasing enrollment, completion rates, and transfers. She inspires others to challenge themselves and believes that a system of supports must be in place to ensure continuous improvement. Dr. Kent embodies the community college ideal of serving the community through all available avenues, such as providing workforce education, obtaining grants to further the reach of the college, connecting with unemployed or underemployed citizens, connecting with school-aged children, and providing continuing education opportunities. As a first generation college student herself, Dr. Kent understands that community colleges often serve as the only option of higher education for a large portion of the population and that special care must be taken to ensure students complete their programs and transfer successfully to the university or workplace.

Dr. Kent aligns her efforts to meeting the mission and vision of the institution and works tirelessly to ensure successful implementation of the strategic plan. She believes in the power of a unified and informed Board and works to create an open and honest line of communication. Dr. Kent is fiscally conservative while being progressive in supports to students. She is active in the community and believes in the need to spend locally when possible to support the local economy. Through service organizations, fundraising opportunities, and community events, Dr. Kent will always be there representing the mission of the college. Through the entire service area, she will be widely present, active, and engaging.

Dr. Kent is proud that her family shares in her commitment to students. Her husband of 26 years, Douglas, is a high school Algebra teacher and coach. Their daughter, Morgan, graduates from high school this May with an Associate's Degree and will be attending Texas State University to become a teacher. Their son, Maddox, is completing the sixth grade and is ready to start junior high. The Kent family is eager to move to Victoria, join the community as well as a church family, and commit themselves for many years to come.