



Dr. Thomas Striplin, Ed.D., has served as the President of Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College for the past 3.5 years. During his tenure, he has led efforts to secure over \$5 million in federal and state grants to enhance college services and launched four new academic and workforce programs. Under his leadership, Eastern has achieved numerous successes, including the creation of a new four-year strategic plan, a successful 10-year reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, the introduction of innovative tuition models for local industry partners, and the expansion of Open Educational Resources (OER's) resulting in significant cost savings for college students. Additional achievements include the establishment of a new career services center, strengthened foundation partnerships and increased endowments, improved student retention and graduation rates, enhanced quality of online courses, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for students and staff.

Dr. Striplin has a strong background in assessment and planning, having guided Eastern in developing several key planning documents, including an institutional effectiveness plan, financial plan, strategic enrollment and student success plan, and a faculty development plan. Additionally, he serves as a peer reviewer for two higher education accreditation bodies—the Middle States Commission on Accreditation and the Higher Learning Commission. Dr. Striplin values this role, stating that it allows him to stay up-to-date on accreditation standards and gain insights into how other institutions are navigating sustainability in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape. Additionally, Dr. Striplin has presented at multiple higher education conferences, including his recent presentation at the Maryland AFACCT 34th Annual Conference on "Education 3.0: Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education."

During his time at Eastern, Dr. Striplin has focused on enhancing institutional culture by fostering a supportive environment for both students and employees. He maintains an "open door policy" and actively encourages open communication regarding college operations. Additionally, he prioritizes being present on campus, engaging directly with students and staff to stay informed about daily activities. Dr. Striplin believes that implementing support programs to improve campus climate is essential for promoting health, wellness, and creating a positive atmosphere where all employees feel valued and supported.

Before becoming President of Eastern, Dr. Striplin served as the Dean of Arts & Sciences at Allegany College of Maryland for six years and as the Director of Clinical Education for the Respiratory Care Program for 27 years. During his time at Allegany, he achieved full professor status and was honored with the League of Innovation Faculty Excellence Award in 2015. Dr. Striplin holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and a master's degree in education from Frostburg State University, a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy from Salisbury State University, and an associate degree in Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy from Hudson Valley Community College.

Dr. Striplin is married to his wife, Jaime, a faculty member in the nursing program at Frostburg State University. They have one son, Daniel, who serves as a Maryland State Trooper, and are proud grandparents of two beloved grandchildren. The family has resided in Mount Savage, Maryland, for the past 25 years.