

2024 HONORED RETIREES



Tony Paustian

Provost, West Campus

Tony Paustian grew up in Bettendorf, Iowa, and graduated from Pleasant Valley High School. After finishing his undergraduate work and ROTC, Tony spent a number of years in the Air Force flying F-111s. His degrees include a doctoral degree in educational psychology from the University of Iowa, an MBA from Loyola, Chicago, and a master's in design management from Northern Illinois University and the American Center for Design. Tony was hired late in 1999 to help design and build the West Des Moines Campus with a focus on IT and innovation and has served as its only Provost to date.

The campus was one of the first in the country to be wireless, and according to Hewlett Packard the only one to fully embrace handheld technology (PocketPCs) at that time as a method to deliver course content. The campus received much national media for its efforts and was named in 2003 as one of the top 100 most innovative organizations in the country by InfoWorld Magazine.

In 2006, the Celebrate! Innovation Exhibition was created, which turned the facility into an interactive museum and learning environment focused on imagination, creativity, and innovation. The storytelling exhibition is listed as a destination spot by the Iowa Department of Tourism. ciLive! (Celebrate Innovation Live!) began in 2010 and served as an inspiring annual celebration bringing some of the biggest names in business, technology, science, television, movies, books, food, extreme sports, and others to the campus to each tell their own stories firsthand. Beginning in 2021, the event was live-streamed, and in 2023 it had more than 65,000 live viewers.

Tony is thankful for the opportunity to create a campus that was able to serve and inspire so many wonderful students and members of our community. After DMACC, he plans to continue following his passion to help and inspire others to achieve their own success as an author, coach and publisher of their content.