

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher
President, Houston Community College - Northeast

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher is passionate about education and demonstrates that passion through her leadership at the Houston Community College – Northeast where she has served as president since 1997. Dr. Ford Fisher believes that community proactivity for education is vital throughout the total community, but particularly in her service area where 37% of residents lack a high school diploma or GED, 38 % of the residents – 16 or older – are not in the labor force, and 31% of the 312,000 adults in the area earn \$15,000 per year or less.

In her role as president, Dr. Ford Fisher has spearheaded the growth and development of what is now a vibrant educational institution that began in 1991 as a regional college within the Houston Community College (HCC) System to provide accessible and affordable education. In 1991, the Northeast College served 3500 students at its facilities that were either leased storefronts or public school buildings. Today, the Northeast College is a comprehensive academic institution with state-of-the-art-campuses in four geographic locations and serves over 13,000 students per semester in the Northeast. With the new implementation of the Centers of Excellence model which was begun in 2015, the Northeast College's service area now spans the entirety of the HCC District to provide access to student access in Global Energy, Public Safety, Automotive Technology and the range of academic and workforce programs that are entailed – thereby accessing over 1,500,000 adults throughout the HCC Service Area where according to Regional Demographic Reports, only 32% of the adults have a college degree.

As Northeast College President, Dr. Ford Fisher has provided leadership in the acquisition of over 176 acres of land for campus development in the Northeast, the acquisition of over \$250 million dollars for infrastructure development and construction of new facilities, and the implementation of leading-edge educational programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields to prepare students for transfer to 4-year institutions and to also prepare residents in career fields for gainful employment. She has served on visiting committees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a National Science Foundation (NSF)-appointed Visiting Committee Member for the National Center for Photonics and Optics Education.

Dr. Ford Fisher has delivered speeches locally, nationally and internationally advocating for excellence in teaching and learning. In 2014, she was invited by the Department of Education to speak to Foreign Ministers of Education from the Caribbean and Latin American countries on the successes of the HCC- Northeast College's (Advanced Technological Education) ATE/STEM Programs. In 2014, Dr. Ford Fisher also developed a monetized proposal in response to the District Chancellor's request to meet a foreign government's need for HCC's programs and services to help facilitate a skilled workforce.

The proposal was developed to serve the foreign government's needs and to also create and expanded entrepreneurial platform for HCC in its Corporate College and Continuing Education Divisions.

Dr. Ford Fisher has also represented the American Association of Community Colleges under the leadership of Dr. George Boggs to keynote a plenary session on America's Community Colleges for the delegation of foreign ministers who convened in Windsor, Canada. She has traveled across the 100 miles where her college is located -- promoting education and training. Her leadership and advocacy for education was instrumental in the successful outcome of a \$157 Million Dollar Bond Referendum in 2003 to build new campus facilities, which led to the first new facilities in the Northeast sector – including a state-of-the-art Energy Institute. She successfully led the fundraising team to solicit student scholarship support from the Shell Westhollow Technology Center for Chemical Laboratory Technology students. She also hired essential staff and created the first Energy Institute at a community college – thereby providing a state of the art training facility to teach a range of programs directly related to oil and gas as well as the entire energy sector. She successfully led the negotiation team that collaborated with the Metropolitan Transit Authority for a One Million Dollar Training Partnership at the Northeast Campus's Public Safety Institute; her leadership was also vital in the community's approval of annexation of her "Out-of-District" Service Area in 2009. She successfully led the negotiation team to work with the City of Houston to acquire the HCC television station that now allows HCC to deliver educational programming to the Houston community; She has successfully collaborated with 4-year institutions for the transfer of students from HCC into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields as evidenced by the ATE Grants awarded and successfully completed. Given the Northeast College's success rate in minority student STEM transfers to 4-year institutions, Dr. Ford Fisher was recommended by the President of the American Association of Community Colleges to testify before Congress to share the successes and to voice support for the Reauthorization of the National Science Foundation.

Among other successes, Dr. Ford Fisher led a team to work with the Houston Independent School District and the Texas Education Agency to develop a proposal that resulted in the award of seed money (\$425K) to establish the North Houston/STEM Early College High School that is located on the HCC Northeast - Northline Campus. She also led the successful 2012 educational engagement initiative in the Northeast sector for approval of the \$425 Million Bond Referendum for new educational facilities from which the Northeast College would gain \$73 million dollars in additional new facilities.

Dr. Ford Fisher was an early pioneer in the Dual Credit Movement. She authored the first articles on Dual Credit in 1991 and wrote the first text on Dual Credit that was published by Corwin Press/Sage Publications in 1996. As a result of her outreach to school administrators and Parent and Teacher Organizations in the Cypress-Fairbanks, Katy, Spring Branch, North Forest, and Houston Independent School District communities, the Dual Credit Program was endorsed and approved for implementation with those

Districts in the mid 1990s. Shortly after the release of Ford Fisher's text on Dual Credit (High School Students Earning College Credit: A Guide to Creating Dual Credit Programs), the National Dual Credit Movement began. To date, thousands of students, both locally and nationally, have completed college coursework by the time of high school graduation. Dr. Ford Fisher's most recent publication is entitled, Learning for Ownership. The release of her new book was launched at Rice University by the Division of Diversity and Inclusion and focused on a plan to improve the educational attainment of at-risk students.

Dr. Ford Fisher continues to serve on numerous local and national committees and boards that focus on student success, community redevelopment and development of the human capital. She is a past Board Member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the AACC Diversity and Inclusion Commission, and past Board Member of the Greater Heights and North-Houston/Greenspoint Chambers of Commerce. She has served as District Chair of the Antares District of the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America. She is currently a Board Member of the Greater Northside Chamber of Commerce and a representative for the National Science Foundation as a Visiting Committee Member to the National Center for Photonics and Optics. Ford Fisher is energized by work that involves the formation of strategic alliances and partnerships to address major challenges within the community.

As an international focus of her leadership, she has been an invited speaker to the Oxford International Roundtable for Community College Presidents, in Oxford, England; she has been a delegate to the "Germany Today" Program based upon her community focus as a long-time television producer and host; she has presented on the topic, "Improving College and University Teaching" in Lausanne, Switzerland, and she was recently an invited Keynote Speaker for the internationally-renowned Marcus Evans Events CXO Summit — held at Buckhead focusing on ways to close the achievement gaps.

Dr. Ford Fisher is the recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Honorable U. S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, the recipient of the Houston Trailblazers Award presented by the Black Heritage Society of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Carol Masterson Education Award, the Education Award presented by the YMCA, the W. E. B. DuBois Award presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), the 2012 Women's History Month Award presented by the Houston League of Business and Professional Women, the District Award of Merit presented by the Antares District of the Sam Houston Boy Scouts of America, and many other notable awards and honors.

Dr. Ford Fisher is no stranger to the Houston community. She believes that the quality of early education programs prepares students for later success. She is committed to working with stakeholders (public schools, universities, and the business community) to ensure the proper alignment of courses and programs of study to enhance the academic

and workforce preparation of students. In that regard, as a part of a Chancellor designated initiative, Dr. Ford Fisher successfully led a team that developed an evidence-based, comprehensive platform for all students to have increased support systems to ensure persistency, matriculation, and completion.

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher holds a Baccalaureate Degree in English from Wichita State University, a Master of Education Degree in the Teaching of English from Wichita State University, and a Doctor of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston. She has been a university professor and has served throughout the ranks at HCC leading to the presidency of the Northeast College. Dr. Ford Fisher resides in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Raymond L. Fisher, who is an attorney in private practice.