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FEATURE SPEAKER

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INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Dr Lynn E. Priddy

Dr Lynn E. Priddy serves as Provost and Chief Academic Officer of National American University (NAU), an institution that offers associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. As Provost, she oversees all aspects of the educational enterprise of the institution. Over the past three years, NAU is an institution specifically working with the states, accreditors, and the US Department of Education to step in and serve displaced students when their colleges close. NAU absorbs these students with no loss of credit or time to degree.

Prior to joining National American University in late 2013, Dr Priddy served the Higher Learning Commission of NCA, the largest United States regional accreditor for fourteen years, the last seven as Vice President for Accreditation Services. At the Commission, she was responsible for the accreditation processes, including the decision process, the peer corps and peer review, education and training, and the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning, for which she was the founding director. In her 14-year tenure at the Commission, Dr Priddy played a pivotal leadership role in the conceptualization of the Commission's new accrediting process, Pathways, the development of the 1600+ member Peer Review Corps, the establishment of AQIP, the alternative accrediting process based on continuous quality improvement principles, and the founding of the Academy for Persistence and Completion. In addition, Dr Priddy worked with international agencies establishing accreditation councils. Prior to leaving the Commission, Dr Priddy co-led a demonstration project to test the Lumina Foundation's Degree Qualifications Profile, a proposed framework of student learning outcomes for associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees, and led the initial development of guidelines and a review framework for competency-based direct assessment degrees.

Dr. Priddy began her higher education career at Nicolet College (community and technical college), serving there as Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Evaluation, and Planning; Director of Research, Assessment, and Development; and English/Composition Faculty. Dr Priddy is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo with a B.A. in English, a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with an M.A. in English; and a *summa cum laude* graduate of Capella University with a Ph.D. in Higher Education, research and evaluation. She is a frequent national and international speaker and large-group facilitator on assessment and improvement of student learning, student persistence and completion, institutional accountability and effectiveness, accreditation, and higher education. Her side interests are researching and speaking on cognition and learning and social development of long-term childhood brain cancer survivors. Her most recent formal publication is "The Accountable Institution: From Compliance to Learning" in the book *The Urgency of Now: Equity and Excellence*. Her informal presentations and retreats have focused on "being real about learning," particularly in serving non-traditional low-income working adult students with a clear perspective on the extra support needed and importance of dignity in appreciating their diverse needs.