

Kenneth T. Christensen is the Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He joined Illinois Tech in 2020 as the Carol and Ed Kaplan Armour College of Engineering Dean. Prior to this, he served on the faculty at Notre Dame (2014-2020), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2004-2014) and the University of New Mexico (2002-2004). A native of northern New Mexico, he holds degrees from New Mexico (B.S., 1995), Caltech (M.S., 1996) and Illinois (Ph.D., 2001).

Provost Christensen has built a diverse leadership team that collaboratively emphasizes strong shared governance to ensure the growth and success of Illinois Tech's diverse student population (27% enrollment growth since Fall 2022). This includes launching academic initiatives that emphasize workforce readiness of graduates (Elevate your Future), introducing the Discover+ pathway for undecided students to explore degree possibilities, creating multiple Tech+ majors that marry the core of two disciplines into a single, four-year UG degree, and charging a university-wide task force to modernize the core curriculum around the entrepreneurial mindset, design and innovation, computational/data literacy and leadership. He has also overseen strategic program launches to expand Illinois Tech's student demographics beyond traditional learners, including three Master's and one UG completion degree on Coursera and an MBA program translated into Mandarin targeting working professionals in China. As someone of Hispanic heritage, Christensen is passionately co-leading Illinois Tech's path to Hispanic-Serving Institution status (27.3% Fall 2024 Hispanic UG enrollment) and is driving strategic fundraising and partnership building to expand impact in education, research and economic development while also ensuring that Illinois Tech is a foundational partner in regional research consortia. He also recently oversaw a restructuring of the research administration enterprise in pursuit of R1 status, with a 50%+ growth in new research awards (FY24 v. FY23).