

## **Debbie Whalley**

Debbie Whalley is the Managing Director of Academic Systems and Technology in the Office of the Provost and the Senior Instructional Technologist and Assessment Manager in Fairfield University's Center for Teaching and Learning. She has been a member of Fairfield's staff since 2002, serving in a wide range of roles across Information Technology Services and Academic Affairs. Her career has included leadership roles in Academic Support, IT Support Services, Academic Computing, and, more recently, faculty development and academic administration.

Debbie's career has given her broad, cross-institutional experience within higher education, spanning instructional and faculty support, help desk operations, support services management, academic computing, teaching and learning, and academic administration. She brings an analytical, systems-thinking approach and a strong ability to understand issues from multiple stakeholder perspectives. She enjoys breaking down complex challenges to find equitable, scalable solutions that work across institutional roles and needs. This combination of breadth, curiosity, and problem-solving positions her well to contribute meaningfully to NERCOMP's strategic direction.

She has served on the NERCOMP Program Committee six times, including for the 2025 and 2026 Annual Conferences. She has also served on the Professional Development Committee for more than six years and on the Community Relations Committee for two years. Through these roles, she helped shape conference programming, cultivate professional communities, and support NERCOMP's mission to foster learning, collaboration, and innovation across the region. She is also a member of New England Faculty Development Consortium (NEFDC) and National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD).

Debbie would like to serve on the NERCOMP Board of Trustees because she believes deeply in NERCOMP's mission to build community, support professional growth, and advance innovation across higher education. For more than a decade, NERCOMP has been a central part of her professional life: a place where she has learned from colleagues, shared her work, and contributed through service on multiple committees. Joining the Board is an opportunity to give back in a more strategic and sustained way.

Debbie would bring a broad understanding of higher education gained through more than 20 years of experience spanning IT, faculty support, teaching and learning, and academic administration. These skills align well with NERCOMP's collaborative ethos and are well suited to responsibilities of Board service. She is also deeply committed to equitable access to professional development. Her work with the Professional Development and Program Committees has reinforced how transformative it can be when colleagues at all career stages have opportunities to learn, grow, and share their expertise. As a Board member, she would advocate for programming and initiatives that strengthen inclusivity, accessibility, and mentorship across the NERCOMP community.

Ultimately, Debbie wants to support NERCOMP in continuing to be a trusted, welcoming, and forward-thinking resource for the region. As a Board member, she would bring a steady perspective grounded in long-standing service, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to stewarding NERCOMP's mission responsibly. She is proud to be included on the election slate, wants to thank her NERCOMP colleagues for their consideration, and respectfully asks for their vote.