

Bio: Michelle DenBeste, Ph.D.

Michelle DenBeste currently serves as Interim Dean of the Hasan School of Business at Colorado State University, Pueblo. In addition to familiarizing herself with faculty projects and current initiatives at the Business School, she is chairing the search for a permanent dean and leading a leadership group for emerging leaders at CSU Pueblo.

Previously, Michelle served as Provost at Central Washington University, where she effectively collaborated with faculty during the challenges posed by COVID-19. She led a summer institute on high-impact educational practices, worked to prepare for an NWCCU accreditation visit, and worked to strengthen relationships between faculty and administration.

During her 20 years at California State University, Fresno she was promoted to associate and full professor, and served as Department Chair of History and then Dean of the College of Social Sciences. She holds a BA in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Washington, alongside an MA and PhD in History from Southern Illinois University. Her scholarly research specializes in the contributions of 19th-century Russian women doctors. A passionate advocate for international education, she has led student study trips to London, Prague, and Russia, enhancing global learning opportunities. In 2022, she was honored to receive the Fulbright Administrator grant, allowing her to travel to France with fellow educators. Michelle is also actively involved in her community, serving on the Board of Gallery One, which supports the visual arts and arts education in Kittitas County. She has also been active in events supporting the newly formed Kittitas County Pride organization. When she is not working, Michelle enjoys the breathtaking outdoor activities available in the Pacific Northwest, including skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking, and camping.