

Mary K. Grant



Mary K. Grant joined UNC Asheville as the seventh chancellor in January 2015, after serving for 12 years as president of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). During her first year, she established UNC Asheville as a center for creative entrepreneurship in the city and across the state, expanding access to higher education while increasing enrollment in North Carolina's public liberal arts university. Dr. Grant oversaw the launch of the university's Center for Creative Entrepreneurship, a partnership with The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, which brings UNC Asheville programming and classes into downtown Asheville. The university also opened an innovative space for engineering and design, providing a pathway for students to develop their careers and establishing a driving force in the creative economy that has led to increased interest in combining elements of art and engineering in to the curriculum. The university was ranked #1 for "Making an Impact," by The Princeton Review, recognizing schools with the best community service opportunities, student governments, sustainability, and on-campus student engagement, as well as graduates with high job meaning. UNC Asheville also earned a Top 10 place on the Best Public Liberal Arts Colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Dr. Grant is a leader in public higher education, having served as chair of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). She currently serves as vice chair of the board for National Campus Compact, vice president of the Big South Conference Council of Chief Executive Officers, as a director of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Asheville, and a trustee of the Norman Rockwell Museum. She served as the chief academic officer and deputy CEO of UMassOnline, was a senior fellow at the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs at UMass Boston, and served as assistant vice chancellor for administration and finance and human resources at UMass Boston. As president of MCLA, she oversaw growth in enrollment, strengthened the connections between the college and the community, and led the college's first comprehensive capital campaign, resulting in approximately \$100 million in new public and private support for MCLA. She brings that expertise and a strategic planning process anchored in community collaboration to UNC Asheville's campus. Dr. Grant has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2014 MCLA Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Massachusetts State Merit Award. She also received the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I Executive Leadership Award in recognition of her success in increasing MCLA's institutional stature in, and service to, the community. Dr. Grant was the recipient of the 2011 American Council on Education Massachusetts National Network of Women Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award, and was appointed to the Massachusetts Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Advisory Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from MCLA, a master's degree in public affairs from UMass Boston, a Ph.D. in social policy from The Heller School at Brandeis University, and an honorary degree from Williams College.