

Abbey Zink serves as Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. Previously, she was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) and Interim Dean and Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) in Danbury, CT.

As an administrator, Dr. Zink has led a broad range of academic disciplines spanning the liberal arts, sciences, fine arts, and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She also has provided administrative oversight for a wide array of academic units, including the Psychological Services Center and the Texas Review Press at SHSU and the NIH-funded National Natural Toxins Research Center and the John E. Conner Museum at TAMUK. In addition, she has shepherded the creation of new degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels and worked collaboratively with the associate vice president for research at TAMUK to create interdisciplinary STEM research groups. For several years, she reviewed new program proposals from public and private institutions as a member of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education Advisory Committee on Accreditation.

Community partnerships have been a hallmark of Dr. Zink's career. Since joining SHSU, she has championed the new minor in Community Leadership developed collaboratively with the Sociology Department, the Center for Community Engagement, and local community groups. At TAMUK, she led the effort to form a partnership with LULAC Council No. 1 Foundation to form the Tejano Civil Rights Museum in Corpus Christi. At WCSU, Dr. Zink coordinated the "Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success" partnership between the university and two local school districts that was cited in WCSU's recognition on President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

A first-generation college student, Dr. Zink is deeply committed to students and their success at the university and as alumni. As a faculty member, she coordinated the writing and tutoring resource centers at WCSU and led efforts to decrease the need for remediation in writing and math. At SHSU, she has focused her efforts on preparing liberal arts students for the job market through college-specific career workshops for graduating seniors, increasing internship opportunities and other applied experiences, and working collaboratively with Career Services.

Dr. Zink earned her doctorate in English at Northern Illinois University and her M.A. in English and B.A. in Journalism at Marshall University. Prior to earning her doctorate in English, Dr. Zink worked as editor of a regional business newspaper. Her research interests include student success, academic leadership, and the relationship between journalism and fiction in late 19th- and early 20th-century American literature.