

Professional Biography

Robert J. Marley, PhD CPE

Dr. Robert Marley currently serves as the Robert B. Koplak Professor of Engineering Management at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T). Marley possesses 34 years of experience in serving research universities, including 23 years in a variety of administrative roles. These include service as an academic dean, as vice president for student success, and as provost. Areas for which I have had leadership responsibility over (in one or more of my positions) include university-wide faculty and student affairs, research and sponsored programs, technology transfer, distance and on-line programs, libraries, enrollment management, registrar, financial aid, research and sponsored programs, and even briefly Division I athletics.

In these capacities, Marley has led substantial enhancement of student and faculty success, prestigious national and international awards, record increases in enrollment and retention, record research growth, record increases in faculty and student diversity, and transformational private support. He has helped garner approximately \$130 Million in new private, State and Federal support for professorships, programs and facilities. Other results at S&T include the implementation of a new College structure, with the appointment of founding academic deans, as well as the creation of a comprehensive support program for faculty excellence. His efforts on behalf of both S&T and Montana State helped lead to enhanced profiles for both institutions, including the ascent of MSU to the R1 classification (very high research activity) of the Carnegie rankings, initially in 2006.

Marley began his professional career as a rehabilitation engineering technician at the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation where he helped design adaptive technologies for severely disabled adults. In 1990 he joined Montana State University-Bozeman in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department. He went on to hold positions as Associate Dean, and then Dean of the College of Engineering, and later as Vice President of Student Success. From 2014 to 2019, Marley served as the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

In 2012 Marley was selected in the prestigious American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program for leadership development where he served at Texas A&M University in College Station. Among other activities, he studied relationships between a flagship public research university and other state campuses operating in a mission-diverse system.

In his faculty role, Marley pursued research questions in ergonomics and human factors engineering related work-related musculoskeletal disorders and performance. He is author of over 100 publications with impact in ergonomics, engineering and safety related disciplines, and has several citations in key Federal compendiums in these areas. In the role of Koplak Professor, he also examines leadership development issues in complex organizations, particularly for under-represented minorities. Marley has earned local and national awards as a faculty mentor and has co-authored a widely-used textbook, including a Spanish language edition.

Marley holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering from Wichita State University, where he was also awarded the University's highly selective Boeing Fellowship (1988 to 1990). His Bachelors and Masters degrees are also from Wichita State. He and his wife, Margaret Maben, who holds a BS in Microbiology, reside in Rolla, Missouri, where they enjoy many outdoor activities together.