



## Dr. Dianna Shandy

*Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Professor of Anthropology*

### Migration and anthropology

As a migration scholar and anthropologist, Dr. Shandy's work spans U.S. and international settings. This background has made her particularly attuned to the ways U.S. higher education unfolds on a global stage.

### Self-efficacy for students

Inspiring critical thinkers means empowering students to use those skills. Through the mutually reinforcing nature of curricular and co-curricular life on college campuses, students have opportunities to learn the skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. From internships to study abroad to student club leadership, students have the opportunity to try out many approaches to solving problems.

### Value of a liberal arts education

Rooted in her own personal experience, Dr. Shandy is a strong advocate for the value of a liberal arts education — positioning graduates to thrive in a complex and ever-changing world.

**Dianna Shandy** grew up as a “farm kid from Kansas.” With a Pell Grant and a generous scholarship, she made her way to Georgetown University, where her experience as a first-generation college student sparked a deep commitment to removing barriers for others.

Today, as provost, Dr. Shandy is driven by a focused mission: to reduce friction for both students and faculty. Her passion for this work was ignited during a volunteer service year at a Mission School in Namibia's Kalahari Desert. There, she taught adults and saw firsthand the transformative power of supporting teachers.

“That's when I got hooked on the potential amplification of the impact you can have on the world,” she recalled. Helping educators, she realized, could magnify her ability to reach students on a much larger scale.

Over time, Dr. Shandy ascended the academic ranks to become a full professor. She loves the classroom, but felt called to work “upstream” at a systems level to support faculty in their roles as scholars, teachers and mentors. At Augustana, she is thrilled to launch the new **Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship**, designed to nurture faculty and staff excellence and ensure they have the resources and support needed to inspire students.

A key aspect of her leadership is securing competitive national grant funding for engaged learning. She finds it deeply fulfilling to see the college community's passion for making a difference in students' lives recognized by those unfamiliar with the college. In 2024, Augustana was awarded a grant from the Teagle Foundation to fund faculty professional development and revamp the first-year general education curriculum.

In addition to her academic expertise, Dr. Shandy brings a keen interest in the financial side of higher education. She serves in a leadership role on the Finance Committee of the American Anthropological Association, where her insight into financial matters complements her advocacy for faculty and academic excellence.

# Dr. Dianna Shandy

## Available for commentary on

- Depth and breadth of academic affairs
- Futuristic thinking for the changing higher education landscape
- Integrated strategic planning for institutional transformation
- High-impact practices to support student retention and success
- Engaged learning
- Study away and internationalization on campus
- Building and supporting a diverse faculty through all stages of their career
- The benefits of a provost with financial savvy
- Connections/intersections of her research and publications (especially related to gender and underrepresentation), and her goals and motivations in higher education
- The teacher-scholar-mentor model and its benefits to teaching and learning
- Supporting first-generation college students so they may thrive
- Forms of alternative academic credit

### Prior academic and scholarly positions

- Professor of Anthropology, Macalester College
- American Council on Education Leadership Fellow
- Scholar in Residence, Elon University
- Residential Scholar: University of Cape Town, 2014-2016; Oxford University, U.K., 2002; University of California, Berkeley, 1995; National University of Côte d'Ivoire 1988-89; Kansas State University 1986

### Prior administrative positions

- Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives, Macalester College
- Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning, Macalester College
- Acting Associate Dean of the Faculty, Macalester College
- Associate Dean, Kofi Annan Institute for Global Citizenship, Macalester College

### Education

- Ph.D., anthropology, Columbia University, New York City
- M.Phil., anthropology, Columbia University, New York City
- M.A., anthropology and education, Teachers College, Columbia University
- B.S., languages, Georgetown University

### Published books

- "Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology," 16th edition, Waveland Press, 2024
- "Glass Ceilings and 100-Hour Couples: What the Opt-Out Phenomenon Can Teach Us About Work and Family," University of Georgia Press, 2009
- "Nuer American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration," University Press of Florida, 2007
- "Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society," Waveland Press, 2004

### LinkedIn



[linkedin.com/in/dianna-shandy/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dianna-shandy/)