

Usha R. Palaniswamy-Candidate for Dean of Curriculum and Program Development

Dr. Palaniswamy graduated from the University of Connecticut as a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in phytochemistry and plant physiology. She also earned a M.Ed. in educational administration and counseling from Madurai Kamaraj University, India and a M.Sc. in horticulture from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India. Dr. Palaniswamy earned a B.Ed. in science education from Annamalai University and a B.Sc. in horticulture from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural College, Coimbatore, India.

Dr. Palaniswamy is currently teaching at Maria College in Albany, NY and at Schenectady County Community College. She was both Dean and professor of Biology at Arcadia University/Global Pathways Institute in Glenside, PA/Mumbai, India prior to her current position. Other previous positions held by Dr. Palaniswamy include Associate Dean and faculty member at Strayer University in Herndon, VA, Dean of Academic Affairs at Everglades University in Orlando, FL, and Chair and faculty program director at Excelsior College in Albany, NY.

In her recent Dean position, Dr. Palaniswamy managed academic affairs, was responsible for Middle States Commissions on Higher Education (MSCHE) compliance, and managed several areas including strategic planning, program development, and program evaluation. She also developed and introduced a model of sharing and implementing quality programs that meet international standards in compliance with the accrediting bodies.

Dr. Palaniswamy describes herself as having a, “[p]roven track record of successfully developing and implementing new academic and research programs, global programs for sustainable development, creating and managing budgets, conceptualizing and leading training and capacity building programs, and creating strong working relationships with colleagues and students.”