

Thomas Brock, Ph.D.

Director

Community College Research Center (CCRC)

Teachers College, Columbia University



Thomas Brock became the director of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) in September 2018, bringing more than 25 years of experience in education and social welfare research to CCRC. He is also a research professor at Teachers College. Brock leads the Postsecondary Education Applied Research Fellowship program at Teachers College and is principal or co-principal investigator on evaluations of guided pathways reforms, workforce training, and the federal work/study program.

From 2013 to 2018, Brock was the commissioner of the National Center for Education Research (NCER) at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). As the leader of NCER, Brock spearheaded a comprehensive research program around improving educational outcomes for students of all ages while focusing more of the center's work on postsecondary research. He also planned and launched several national research centers and networks dedicated to topics such as college completion, developmental education, and career and technical education.

In January 2017, former Education Secretary John King delegated to Brock the duties of director of IES. Brock served in the role for more than a year, overseeing IES's centers on research, evaluation, and statistics and the release of several major reports.

Prior to his work for the U.S. Department of Education, Brock spent nearly a decade as the head of the postsecondary education division of MDRC, capping more than 20 years at the independent social policy research organization. At MDRC, he was involved in evaluations of major community college reforms, including the Opening Doors Demonstration and Achieving the Dream. Brock's writing has appeared in several policy journals, including *New Directions for Community Colleges*, *Future of Children*, and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Brock sits on the Board of Trustees at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, and serves on the advisory boards for the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research and North Carolina State University, the Wheelhouse Center for Community College Leadership and Research at the University of California, Davis, and the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Between 2016 and 2018, he represented the U.S. on the Governing Board of the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Brock earned his BA in anthropology from Pitzer College, an MPA from Columbia University and a PhD in social welfare from UCLA.