

Wildolfo Arvelo became president of Great Bay Community College in July, 2007, bringing his 19 years of prior experience in higher education to the position.

Arvelo was born in Puerto Rico, where he spent his early years before coming to the United States, living most of his formative years in Spanish Harlem. He attended high school in Andover, Massachusetts, moving on to earn a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in public policy administration, and a doctorate in higher education administration, all from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He was the first member of his family to attend college and attain an advanced college degree.

He began his higher education career at Bunker Hill Community College in 1985 in the advising, financial aid and admissions departments. He continued to serve in admissions managerial positions at additional greater Boston area colleges, before joining Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, first in admissions and enrollment services, rising to the Vice President for Corporate & External Relations position, which he held from 2004 until he was named president of Great Bay Community College in July, 2007, which was, at that time, located in Stratham, New Hampshire. Dr. Arvelo oversaw both a complete \$15 million dollar renovation of the former Air Force base hospital at Pease International Tradeport, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the subsequent move of the entire college's operations from its former Stratham location to the newly-renovated Portsmouth location in July, 2009. He is currently overseeing a \$4.5 million renovation to create an advanced manufacturing branch campus in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Dr. Arvelo is dedicated to the exploration of collaborations and partnerships between Greater Seacoast Area business and industry entities and the college. He recognizes that an educated workforce is the best hope for economic development and has made the goal of accessible education for those who wish to pursue it a cornerstone. To that end, he has been privileged to participate in the State's vigorous efforts to bring increased numbers of business, industry, and manufacturing expansions to the Greater Seacoast Area. Arvelo is principal investigator for the \$20 million U.S. Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant for capacity building in advance manufacturing education for New Hampshire. He has also worked to enhance science, technology, engineering and math education through the growth of science education at the College and to build articulation pathways with the University System of New Hampshire as well as other New Hampshire colleges and universities. Arvelo is also involved in National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health efforts to increase undergraduate research at community colleges in partnership with Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire.

Arvelo was selected as the 2012 City of Portsmouth Business Chamber Citizen of the Year, citing his strong support of business and industry and is a member of the board of directors of United Way of the Greater Seacoast as well as the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. He is also a board member of the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission, Campus Compact of New Hampshire, the College of Life Science and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire, and the New England College Council.

Dr. Arvelo lives in Newfields, New Hampshire, with his wife, Linda, and "Harley", their Jack Russell Terrier. He enjoys working on home and yard projects, reading, and has a motorcycle which he wishes he had more time to ride.