

Carol Ann Gittens, Ph.D.

Carol Ann Gittens holds a tenured faculty appointment in the Child Studies Program, and is a former associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at Santa Clara University. In 2015-16 she served as interim dean for the graduate School of Education and Counseling Psychology (SECP). Promoting diversity and inclusion is a hallmark of her leadership profile. As interim dean of SECP, she collaborated with the Foundation for Hispanic Education to host the first annual *Latino Education Summit*. The event brought together over 550 public, private, and charter school teachers and educational leaders to discuss solutions to the educational crisis over access to high education and workforce development facing the Latino community in the Silicon Valley. Also under her leadership, SECP secured a \$1.1 million-dollar Foundation grant to implement an innovative teacher preparation program for Catholic school educators.



As the founding Director of the SCU Office of Assessment, she designed and implemented ambitious and innovative performance metrics and standards, in support of the institutional strategic plan and academic master plan, to enhance academic and co-curricular programs in the assessment of student learning. She worked with deans, faculty, institutional stakeholders, and staff from six independent Schools and Colleges, as well as the Dean of Students, and the Dean of the Library to secure institutional re-accreditation. She collaborated with the graduate business, law, and theology school deans in the achievement of professional accreditation. These were collaborations transcending, and uniting, SCU's main campus and its operationally independent academic units and its satellite graduate campuses and regional centers.

Gittens is a highly sought after educational workshop facilitator, assessment mentor, keynote speaker, and accreditation readiness consultant for public and private universities. She is a well-established scholar who studies the interface of critical thinking, motivation, mathematical reasoning, and academic achievement. Dr. Gittens is an author or co-author on numerous articles and assessment tools focusing on critical thinking skills, numeracy, and academic motivation across the lifespan. Her areas of expertise include assessment of institutional effectiveness and student learning outcomes, accreditation planning, translating strategic vision into measurable objectives to serve diverse learners, designing sustainable assessment systems at all levels of the institution, critical thinking pedagogy and assessment, integrating critical thinking and information literacy across the curriculum and in co-curricular programs, as well as statistics and assessment design for individuals and institutions.

Gittens is an accreditation evaluator for the WASC Senior College and University Commission, a Board of Institutional Reviewers member of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), and a senior research associate with Insight Assessment, LLC. Gittens served as the educational effectiveness and quality assurance expert on an international team who achieved initial institutional accreditation for the proposed Jesuit Liberal Arts College (JLAC) of Hong Kong from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ).

Gittens earned her Ph.D. in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of California at Riverside. She received her BA in Psychology and Women's Studies from the University of California at Davis. Prior to her appointment at Santa Clara University she taught at California State University, San Bernardino and at Mills College in Oakland, California.

Contact Dr. Gittens through [Santa Clara University](#), [Insight Assessment](#), or [Measured Reasons](#)