

David Vassar, Ph.D.

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A native Texan, David Vassar has spent the majority of his professional career working with industrial and higher education partners throughout the world, with particular emphasis on Mexico and Latin America. After completing a B.A. in Spanish at Texas Christian University, Vassar continued his studies with a Master's of Business Administration at Texas A&M University in College Station. After this, he had a five-year career in IT consulting during which he lived both in Venezuela and Mexico and implemented ERP software at major multinational corporations.

Vassar returned to higher education at the University of Virginia, where he completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Latin American Literature. A specialist in contemporary Southern Cone literature, he has taught courses on 20th and 21st century short fiction, novel, and autobiography, as well as language and culture courses in both Spanish and Portuguese.

From 2007-2016, he served as an advisor to the president of Rice University, where he was also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Humanities. During Vassar's tenure at Rice University, he has worked with university partners in Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In March of 2018, after 15 months working to start-up the ConTex Office for the University of Texas System at UTSA, Vassar returned to Rice University, where he currently oversees the development and delivery of professional education offerings across a variety of fields, including financial services, communication, management and leadership, paralegal studies, computer and data science, engineering, and non-profit management.

Vassar has also been active in the Houston community, serving in leadership roles at both the Brazil-Texas and US-Mexico Chambers of Commerce, the Houston Chamber Choir, as well as on the Mayor's International Trade and Development Committee for the Americas. He served on the Avance Houston board of directors from 2014-2017.

David and his wife, Claudia, are the proud parents of Sylvia (6), Rafael (6), and Oscar (4).