

Bio for Chaouki T. Abdallah

Chaouki T. Abdallah was appointed the Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) on September 1, 2018. Prior to that, he was a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where he served as Chair of the Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) department between 2005 and 2011 and as Provost between July 2011 and August 2018. He also served as the 22nd President of UNM between January 2017 and February 2018. At Georgia Tech, Dr. Abdallah provides overall leadership for the research, economic development, and related support units within Georgia Tech, and serves on the President's executive leadership team. He also serves on the executive committee of the Council on Research for the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU), the executive committee for the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR), and the advisory committee for the Center on measuring university performance (MUP).

At UNM, Abdallah was the first recipient of ECE's Lawton-Ellis Award for combined excellence in teaching, research, and student/community involvement. Professor Abdallah also received the School of Engineering senior research excellence award in 2004, and was the ECE Gardner-Zemke Professor between 2002 and 2005. He received the 2017 UNM Staff Hero award for his "advocacy for staff during difficult financial times and for his support of Staff Council." He was the recipient of the 2017 Spirit of New Mexico award.

He has published eight books (three as co-editor and five as co-author) and more than 300 peer-reviewed papers. As Provost, he assembled a team to improve student success focusing on underprepared and underrepresented students. Within 7 years, under his leadership, UNM increased the first-year retention rates by 8%, the four-year graduation rate by 125%, the five-year graduation rate by 8%, and the six-year graduation rate by 15%, while closing the retention achievement gap and narrowing the graduation achievement gap. Abdallah obtained his Bachelor's of Engineering (BE) degree from Youngstown State University in 1981, and his MS and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1982, and 1988 respectively. Abdallah conducts research and teaches courses in the general area of systems theory with focus on control, communications, and computing systems. Abdallah is a senior member of IEEE, is a recipient of the IEEE Millennium medal, and is fluent in English, French, and Arabic.