Bio for
Chae E. Sweet

In her current role as Associate Dean of Developmental Education and English Language Studies at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, New Jersey, Dean Sweet has consistently pushed the boundaries of what was expected, and steered efforts to create innovative and effective programs to support student success. She led faculty in the redesign of the developmental English course offerings, implemented and expanded an accelerated learning program, and revamped the delivery of tutorial and academic support for students. Other initiatives include leading an effort to create a two-credit college success course for developmental English and ESL students. Dean Sweet has also served as a leader and guide in campus-wide efforts to conduct, streamline, and standardize program and course assessment processes. Building relationships that focus on a commitment to promote student success has been key to every successful initiative.

Prior to becoming a dean, Chae Sweet was an Assistant Professor of English at Hudson County Community College where she taught for 10 years. During that time, she helped hundreds of students find their voices through writing, learn successful reading strategies, and expand their world through literature. As a faculty leader at her college, she led workshops, coordinated the reading program, and developed and created curriculum. Additionally, she has written numerous educational publications over the years, and in 2012 published Novel Strategies: A Guide to Effective College Reading, her first textbook. Novel Strategies is indicative of Dean Sweet’s belief in the power of the written word and her desire to broaden the impact of strategies and practices that support students’ academic achievement.

As an educational leader, Dean Sweet is tenacious in her quest to improve and develop programs, curricula, and opportunities for college students. Her experience has shown that lives are shaped by the thoughts we think, and through education we become more flexible, creative thinkers. There are few places that hold the transformational potential that is found on college campuses, so, for Dean Sweet, having the opportunity to participate in and enhance this potential is an inspiring and enlivening challenge.

Dean Sweet received her B.A. in English and Journalism from Rutgers University, her M.F.A. in Fiction from New School University, and is currently completing her doctoral research in Higher Education Administration at Grambling State University.