



KAREN L. HELFINSTINE, M.A.

**VICE CHAIR OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HEALTHCARE
ADMINISTRATION**

Karen Helfinstine, Vice Chair of Education Administration, has over 20 years of health care experience both internal and external to Mayo Clinic. In her current role, Karen collaborates with Education physician, scientist

and administration leaders throughout Mayo Clinic to help transform Mayo Clinic's mission and Mayo Clinic Education's vision into daily operations throughout the Education Shield.

Previously, Karen served as the vice chair of the Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery, and the interim chair of Quality and Value. Karen and her physician partner directed the transition of the Kern Center to the Practice Shield. While in Kern she has administratively led the Why Mayo Oversight group and the COVID-19 modeling team, which in 2021 was awarded the Team Science Award. In 2020 and 2021, she served as the administrative partner for the Mayo Clinic Commitment to End Racism in Rochester, working on numerous initiatives such as the Get Real platform and the Rise for Youth program.

Prior to joining the Kern Center in 2018, Karen served as the Operations Administrator for the Department of Provider Relations where she has participated in a number of work groups, including the Education team, the launch of the Professional Leadership Development program, and the liaison with gastroenterology and cardiovascular service lines. Additionally, Karen served as the Echo and Stress Labs as well as the Cardiovascular Outpatient Clinic. Before returning to Mayo Clinic in 2014, Karen served as the Director of Cardiovascular Services at Fairview, University of MN Medical Center. She also served as the Program Director Chair for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Argosy University in Eagan, MN. Early in her health care career, Karen was a clinical study coordinator as well as a cardiac sonographer.

Karen holds a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in higher and postsecondary learning and is a 2005 graduate of Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences, Echocardiography program. Outside of Mayo, Karen has a broad background in education and was the program chair for an Associate of Applied Science program in diagnostic medical sonography with concentrations in General and Cardiac Ultrasound and oversaw the launch of a certificate program in vascular sonography. She has received several leadership awards including in 2017, she was awarded the Excellence in Leadership award at Mayo Clinic. Karen holds the academic rank of Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and is a Mayo Clinic Quality Fellow: Bronze.