



Raj Echambadi, PhD

Raj Echambadi is the President-Elect at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is humbled and deeply honored to be named the next President at an institution born out a purpose to liberate the collective power of difference to advance technology education for all.

Prior to this role, Echambadi was the Dunton Family Dean at the D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University. Prior to joining D'Amore-McKim in August 2017, Echambadi

served as the Alan J. and Joyce D. Baltz Professor and the Senior Associate Dean of Strategic Innovation at the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

D'Amore-McKim strives to embrace future-focused opportunities by discovering, designing, and delivering the evolving competencies required for thriving in this ever-changing, technologically driven world. Recently Poets&Quants, the influential business education website, named D'Amore-McKim as one of the 10 undergraduate schools to watch for in 2020. With over 400 faculty and staff members serving more than 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 700+ corporate partners around the world, and 50,000+ global alumni, D'Amore-McKim has become widely recognized as a preeminent business school that generates use-inspired knowledge and develops impactful leaders who will shape the emerging world of digital transformation and convergence.

Echambadi strongly believes that experiential learning that fuses academic rigor with real-world relevance – coupled with Northeastern's unique humanics curriculum that espouses a combination of technology, data, and human-centered literacies – forms the foundation for developing well-rounded, robot-proof leaders for the future. Examples of this include the newly launched “MBA x” program, “MS x” program, and combined undergraduate majors; they help students develop multidisciplinary perspectives by blending their business studies with non-business areas of expertise, such as computer science or experiential design. By encouraging students to experience a diverse array of knowledge and interdisciplinary experiences in other Northeastern colleges and programs, D'Amore-McKim has become the university's “connective tissue.”

At D'Amore-McKim, Echambadi created the Office of Student Engagement, Affinity, and Inclusion to foster better on-campus experiences for students. Several programs including Building Belonging Fellows, Pathfinders, and Peer Affinity Cohorts have been launched wherein students from diverse backgrounds are paired up with mentors, help serve as ambassadors and advisors on how to cultivate a culture of belonging at D'Amore-McKim, and utilize entrepreneurial skills to become change makers. He helped launch a co-designed, work-integrated graduate degree with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to educate students from diverse backgrounds to be ready for the future of work.

Echambadi's major research interests in strategic innovation within organizations focus on how firms should balance the importance of executing current opportunities with exploring future opportunities. His research articles have been published in some of the top business and statistics journals. In 2004, his paper on employee entrepreneurship—describing how senior employees from incumbent companies founded new ventures that then directly competed with those incumbents themselves—won the *Academy of Management Journal* Best Paper Award. Utilizing principles from his work on innovation, he helped launch the scaled online MBA program at Illinois. This program, known as the iMBA and launched in partnership with Coursera, has been hailed by the media as a breakthrough disruptive innovation in graduate education.

Echambadi is also an accomplished teacher. Echambadi has taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate, MBA, executive MBA, and Ph.D. levels, and he received numerous accolades for his teaching achievements. He received a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (1985-1989) and a Master of Business Administration (1990-92) from Anna University in India, and a doctorate in marketing from the University of Houston (1994-1998). He worked at TAFE, India (1989-1990) and Castrol (1992-1993) prior to moving to the United States. He has served on the board of trustees of Carle Hospitals, Illinois.