**Bio:**

**Erick Akins, Ph.D.** has served as a Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin since January 2004, teaching urban related courses in the Geography and the Environment Department to undergraduate students and previously as a faculty advisor for students working on their Senior Project. He will be teaching a Grant Development/Proposal Writing graduate course for students majoring in public administration during the 2017 spring semester. .

Erick has been employed with the Alamo Colleges in San Antonio, Texas since January 2004. He has served as Director of Grants and Contracts Department. In that position Erick was responsible for ensuring funds were spent in accordance with funding source guidelines. As the Director of Grants and Contracts, Erick monitored and provided oversight assistance for over $68 million in external funds received by the Alamo Colleges.

Erick served as the Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education for St. Philip’s College for two years. During that time he was responsible for overseeing the training and education needs for over 8,000 students taking non-credit courses in workforce development and continuing education training. Students enrolled in workforce development and continuing education classes worked to improve their skills by taking non-credit course potentially leading to upward mobility and re-training for new skills using new technology. While serving as Dean Erick taught continuing education grant writing courses at St. Philip’s College.

Since 2010, Erick has served as Title III Director for St. Philip’s College administering U.S. Department of Education Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) grants totaling over $6 million. These grants provide assistance in strengthening HBCUs.

Beginning in 2003, Erick has participated in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of University Partnership peer review process which allocates funds using a competitive bid process for colleges and universities to implement programs that provide services to communities in need.

Working in the area of higher education has allowed Erick to work with nonprofit organizations, small businesses, local government and other community leaders in areas such areas as: acquisitions, employee development, finance, facilities, community development and any other area relevant to sustainability as it relates to the successful implementation and operations of program development.

Erick's professional experience includes public sector and nonprofit organizations. He has over 15 years’ experience with local government, and an over 20 plus years with nonprofit organizations. This experience has allowed him to work with a diverse group of individuals and organizations.

Erick is a native of Chicago, Illinois with an academic background that includes a Ph.D. in Human Services from Capella University; Minneapolis, Minnesota; a Master of Arts in Urban Studies from Trinity University, San Antonio; and a Bachelor of Music Education from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.