MARYANN SANTOS joined Purdue University as the Dean of the College of Education in July 2009. She arrived from Arizona State University, where she was senior associate dean for academic programs and personnel with the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education. Her diverse training in Program Evaluation and Educational Psychology with an emphasis in School Psychology resulted in a number of academic and administrative positions within that college and university.

Dr. Santos has helped position Purdue’s College of Education as a national leader in K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education coupled with a commitment to diversity and equality that will improve access to quality educational opportunities for all students.

The college was recently named a partner in 100K in 10—a national initiative to increase the number of STEM teachers to 100,000 in the next ten years. The college’s graduate programs are ranked in the top 40 of the more than 200 peer programs surveyed by US News and World Report.

Since coming to Purdue, Dr. Santos has been a champion of public education in Indiana. At the invitation of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz, she co-chaired the 2015 Blue Ribbon Commission on the Recruitment and Retention of Excellent Teachers.

Her research interests include the assessment of ethnic minority children and adolescents, P-20 pipeline education issues to include high school completion and college attendance, and women's issues.

Dr. Santos began her professional career working as a school psychologist in the Fort Worth and Dallas Independent School Districts. In 1982, she moved to Texas A&M University where she served as a project director and senior research scientist at the Behavioral Research Center.

From 1986 to 1988 she served as associate director and then director of University Testing Services at Arizona State University. In 1988 she turned her full attention to teaching and research in the Division of Psychology in Education and reached the rank of full professor in 1999. During this period of time, Dr. Santos served as the school psychology training director, published over 40 refereed manuscripts and book chapters, and wrote and administered several grants. She also served as director of the High School Completion Initiative prior to entering university administration full-time.

Beyond her academic work, Dr. Santos served in leadership roles with the National Latino/a Psychological Association. She served two terms on the State of Arizona Board of Psychology Examiners, including a two-year term as chair.

An active volunteer in the community, Dr. Santos serves on the board of directors of the Greater Lafayette Community Foundation. As a member of the Campaign Cabinet for United Way of Lafayette, she chaired the Purdue employee campaign in 2014 and the 2016 Community Campaign.