

Dr. OJ Oleka is the President of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU). AIKCU advocates for higher education policies at the state and federal level, and collaborative practices amongst its members, that will lead to increased affordability and access to postsecondary opportunities for all Kentuckians at each of the 18 AIKCU member institutions. Prior to AIKCU, Dr. Oleka was the Deputy Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, where he worked on policy that streamlined government, helped write the financial literacy standards for the Kentucky Department of Education, and protected the property rights of Kentuckians.

Dr. Oleka graduated from the University of Louisville with a bachelor's degree in Marketing and a minor in Political Science. At UofL, Dr. Oleka was Student Body President and Chairman of the Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents. After graduation, Dr. Oleka joined Teach For America and taught middle school math in St. Louis.

Dr. Oleka earned his PhD in Leadership in Higher Education in 2020 from Bellarmine University, where he previously earned an MBA. As a published researcher, Dr. Oleka has focused on college affordability and systems alignment between school districts, postsecondary institutions, and the business community. Dr. Oleka is passionate about ending generational poverty through educational opportunity and economic mobility. Dr. Oleka lives in Louisville, Ky., where he serves on the education and workforce development committee for the local chamber of commerce. He lives with his wife Jamie, and their dog Ashe.