

## **Maria Vaz**

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Maria Vaz is associate provost and dean of graduate programs and professor of physics at Lawrence Technological University. Prior to becoming associate provost and dean in 1998, Vaz was chair of the Natural Sciences Department (physics and chemistry) (1992–94) and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1994–98).

As an associate provost Vaz is responsible for the assessment program of the university as well as the quality and consistency of the graduate programs offered. She works closely with the provost, deans of the colleges, and vice-presidents to accomplish the goals of the university.

Vaz is interested in science education and has received several grants from the Michigan Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and private foundations to improve science education in the schools. In partnership with the Detroit Zoo and the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Lawrence Tech developed, under Vaz's direction, a unique and innovative master of science education program for middle school teachers.

A native of Portugal, Vaz has lived in the United States for the last 25 years. She received her undergraduate degree in physics from the University of Lisbon, Portugal, and her master's degree and PhD in physics from Kent State University.