Karen P. DePauw is Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and tenured Professor in the Departments of Sociology and Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise. Before moving to Tech, she served as a faculty member at Washington State University and held several administrative positions, including Dean of the Graduate School. Since her arrival at Virginia Tech, her major accomplishments include success in building a strong diverse graduate community, the establishment of the national awarding winning innovative Graduate Life Center (GLC), the signature academic initiative known as Transformative Graduate Education (TGE) including the global perspectives program and has been recognized nationally as a leader in innovative use of technology in graduate education.

Dr. DePauw has held several leadership roles in graduate education including: founding member and Facilitator/Chair for the Virginia Council of Graduate School (VCGS), President of the Council of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Chair of the 2010 Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), and Chair of the GRE Board (2013-2014). She has been a panelist, speaker and presenter at regional affiliates (CSGS, WAGS), national meetings and workshops (CGS, NSF IGERT, Advance/NSF), and international conferences (e.g., European University Association, Council of Doctoral Education).