As vice president and dean of the college at Colgate University, Dr. McLoughlin is a member of Colgate's senior leadership and participates in all aspects of institution-wide planning and policy development. Prior to his arrival at Colgate, McLoughlin served as the dean of students at Lafayette College where he partnered with Lafayette faculty to link living and learning at the college. He helped to develop the Connected Communities Program there, including the launch of five residential commons. In 2017, Lafayette awarded him the Cyrus S. Fleck, Jr. Administrator-of-the-Year Prize for his outstanding contributions to the campus community; His nomination for the prize came directly from students.

McLoughlin also served in a series of positions at Harvard University over a decade — starting as assistant director for health and medical careers counseling and serving as the assistant dean of student life for five years. McLoughlin served as associate dean of Harvard College and senior adviser to the dean of Harvard College between 2008-2011.

McLoughlin is a co-author of a chapter from the 2015 book, Expanding the Circle: Creating An Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies. He also served as an editor of The Vermont Connection and later as an author publishing, ""A call to HIV Educators: Why the current prevention efforts are failing."

McLoughlin earned his bachelor's degree at Miami University, majoring in zoology and minoring in neuroscience. He received his master's degree in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont and his PhD in higher education administration from Boston College.