Shah started his higher education career as an instructor in 1989 and advanced to research associate, director of business development, special assistant to president, associate vice president, vice president, and chief information officer. He joined Lone Star College System as the vice chancellor and CIO in 2008. In his various roles, Shah set many national benchmarks and standards for process and educational improvements and became a sought after speaker at national educational conferences such as League of Innovation, EDUCAUSE, IMS, and American Association of Community Colleges. In 2011 alone, Mr. Ardalan was named a Top Innovator in American Education by the Center for Digital Education, and was the recipient of The Carl Nelson Administrative Leadership Award, by the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

Through Shah’s reputation, leadership, and visionary accomplishments, he and his teams have been featured in over 80 national and international publications including the Chronicle of Higher Education, Campus Technology, Community College Weekly, and University Business.

Shah’s comprehensive and proven academic and management track-record made him the perfect candidate to lead an exciting new chapter in the history of Lone Star College System: building a world-class innovative campus for the 21st century. This new chapter includes the design of an ecosystem that emphasizes excellence through innovation in the following key areas: education delivery, student services, workforce development, industry partnerships, and community enrichment. In addition to a fully accredited college, this large (1.2 million sf on 71 acres) campus is home to Corporate College, a full-service conference center, four universities, a charter school, and first-class commercial leasing space. This unique corporate-look-college-feel College of the 21st Century enrolls over 6,000 students and has already won the 2012 National Student Innovative Business Start-up Challenge.

Shah earned a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University and a Bachelor’s degree in Physics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC. He also holds academic diplomas and certificates from the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and Harvard University.