

INTERFACE

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF NETWORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF NETWORK 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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There's a New Sheriff in Town

By Benita Duncan
Lansing Community College

I AM THRILLED AND HONORED TO SERVE AS YOUR 27TH president of the Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN). A graduate of Howard University, I serve as the executive assistant and liaison to the board of trustees at Lansing Community College (LCC). I've been with the college for over 25 years. In October 2014, I received the Central Region Professional Board Staff Award from ACCT. I've served four LCC presidents and have served as lead support for the hiring of our sixth and seventh college presidents.

I am affectionately known as “the sheriff” by my trustees and president — a nickname that came out of leading the effort to review 86 of our college policies. I believe that beside every great CEO is an exceptional assistant working alongside them. Let's face it, many of us serve as sheriffs, captains, commanders, and chiefs at our local community colleges exceptionally well.

I live by the motto “Being of Service to All Mankind.” This past October, members of the Professional Board Staff Network from all around the country met in beautiful San Diego, California, to participate in PBSN events as part of the ACCT Leadership Congress. It was wonderful seeing everyone after not meeting in person last year due to COVID. We reunited with familiar colleagues and met many new first-timers. The PBSN thanks our captain and **Immediate Past President Jeannie Moton** for steering us last year through COVID and this year in San Diego. She did an outstanding job, and we commend her for serving as president for two years. A huge thank you to her and **Portland Community College** for their sponsorship and hosting our meet and greet reception. We'd also like to thank **Lansing Community College** and **Chabot-Las Positas Community College District** for their sponsorships. Support through sponsorships makes our conferences successful, so thank you!

I have the distinct honor of serving with nine exceptional individuals who make up the 2021-2022 PBSN Executive Committee.

PBSN Vice President Bridget Abraham is the Board of Trustees Operations and Services Specialist at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, where she has served for the past four years. With 20 years of experience in higher education, she has served as senior administrative assistant in the Office of the President and in an administrative support position for a university's board of trustees. Her previous higher education experience also includes serving in the student affairs arena as director of student services and as a transcript evaluator and academic coordinator. Her motto is “Leadership and Service Can Co-Exist!”

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Secretary Debra Nascimento has worked as executive assistant and board coordinator at Chabot-Las Positas Community College District since 2016. She brings over 20 years of executive-assistance experience to the table with experience in event planning and project coordination.

Originally from Tracy, California, Nascimento attended Delta Community College. Prior to her current position, she worked for Gallo Winery, supporting the vice president of business relations and board of trustees. She also worked for Team Health supporting the president and CFO. For her role as executive assistant at Team Health, Nascimento was awarded the “Recognition of Excellent Service” award for taking on extra workloads and going above and beyond.

Immediate Past President Jeannie Moton works as the executive coordinator for the Office of the President at Portland Community College. She supports the president and the college’s elected board of directors. She attended college in Bakersfield, California, earning her Associate of Arts from Bakersfield College and a Bachelor of Arts from California State University. Before coming to PCC, she had an extensive background in non-profit work in Bakersfield. Moton enjoys camping, photography, and cooking. She also enjoys gardening, but admittedly is not very good at it.

Communications Coordinator Mandi Reiland serves in the role of manager of executive operations for the chancellor and board of trustees at San Jacinto Community College. Reiland began her work at San Jacinto College in 2012 and supports the college’s chancellor, board of trustees, and strategic leadership team. In her role, she manages the staff and daily operations of the chancellor’s office, assisting in planning and executing special events and projects for the college and coordinating all board-related activities.

Central Region Member-at-Large Wendy McCambridge serves as the College of DuPage’s director of legislative affairs/special assistant to the president. She has over 15 years of experience working in and for local and state government in many capacities. Most recently, she served as the city clerk for the City of Aurora. In her current role, she is a member of the president’s cabinet and is the liaison to the College of

DuPage Board of Trustees and elected officials serving College District 502. She also works on special projects and initiatives for the president of the college. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in social work from Marquette University and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Chicago.

Northeast Region Member-at-Large Larisa Pfeiffer serves as the College of Southern Maryland’s (CSM) chief of staff. Prior to serving as chief of staff, Pfeiffer spent four years as the institution’s lead community engagement coordinator and five years as the college’s business and information technology coordinator for the CSM Workforce Development division. She has also served as an adjunct professor of communication.

Pfeiffer holds an Associate of Arts and Sciences from CSM, a Bachelor of Business from the University of Maryland, a Master of Communication from Southern New Hampshire University and is a doctoral candidate of the Community College Leadership program at Ferris State University.

Pacific Region Member-at-Large Kristen Grimes is the director of board and executive searches at Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC), a position she has held since January 2017. She joined MSJC in 2001, providing administrative support for several career education categorical programs before transitioning into the president’s office in 2004. Prior to joining the president’s office, Grimes served her fellow classified professionals as classified senate president and treasurer for California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 767. Grimes’ areas of expertise include participatory governance, board policies and administrative procedures, administrative support to internal and external accreditation site visits, and administrative support to executive leadership and the board of trustees.

Southern Region Member-at-Large Lisa Barkley is the executive assistant to the president and board of trustees of Halifax Community College in Weldon, North Carolina. She is dedicated to helping others succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. Prior to her position with Halifax Community College, Barkley worked as an adjunct professor, tutor, administrative assistant, traffic assistant, site director, business manager, and receptionist.

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Western Region Member-at-Large Dr. Monique Morgan is the liaison for board services at Houston Community College (HCC), where she supports the HCC Board of Trustees and chancellor on college initiatives. Her higher education career extends over 20 years in leadership, teaching, relationship management, and counseling capacities. Morgan's professional experience in higher education began as a university recruiter for Southern University and A&M College in 2001. She holds a Ph.D. in counseling and human services from Capella University, a graduate degree in public administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in business economics, both from Southern University and A&M College. Morgan looks forward

to expanding the participation of board professionals in the Western region of ACCT, and she is committed to success, and lives by the scripture... *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13).

What exceptional teammates I have. Thanks for entrusting me to serve as your president, and thanks to those who attended the 2021 PBSN events. The PBSN is a wonderful network to be a part of, and I encourage you to get involved and stay involved with one of the best networks in the land! We are looking forward to planning another great conference in New York, New York October 26 – 29, 2022...so start spreading the news.



The 2022 Professional Board Staff Network Executive Committee