

2023

ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY
COLLEGE TRUSTEES



Congratulations to the 2023 ACCT Award recipients!

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outstanding
leadership and
dedicated service
to students.

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to foster the principles and practices of exemplary governance while promoting high quality and affordable higher education, cutting-edge workforce and development training, student success, and the opportunity for all individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency and security.

The Association of Community College Trustees Board of Directors and President are pleased to announce the 2023 Regional ACCT Awards recipients.

OVERVIEW

Congratulations to the extraordinary community college trustees, programs that improve institutional equity and diversity, chief executive officers, faculty, and professional board staff members recognized by the ACCT Awards. These awardees demonstrate exceptional leadership and service, and their individual and group achievements have helped to define their institutions as places of outstanding education and achievement.

The ACCT Awards Committee had quite a challenge this year selecting from among the many deserving nominations. We thank all who participated in the awards nomination process and for those who did not make it into these pages, we strongly encourage you to nominate your most outstanding leaders again next year.

We also express our gratitude to ACCT Corporate Council member Edamerica and the nominees' respective colleges and state associations for their generous support of the ACCT Awards program.

On behalf of the ACCT Board of Directors, staff, and membership, we once again congratulate all of this year's awards recipients. The recognition they are receiving is well deserved, and their contributions will live on in the work being done by their colleges and students.



Rose Benavidez

*Association of Community College Trustees Chair
Chair, South Texas College, TX*



Jee Hang Lee

*President & CEO
Association of Community College Trustees*

2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARDEES

CENTRAL

VERNON JUNG, JR.

MORAINÉ PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WI

NORTHEAST

BAKARI G. LEE, ESQ.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NJ

PACIFIC

DEBORAH MCCASLAND

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, AZ

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2023**

M. DALE ENSIGN TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The ACCT Board of Directors annually honors an individual who has made a significant contribution as a lay trustee to promote the community college concept.

The Association Award is named after M. Dale Ensign, one of ACCT's pioneers and the founding chair of the association, who served as a trustee at Northwest Community College in Powell, Wyoming.

SOUTHERN

EUGENE LAMB, JR.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FL

WESTERN

BRIAN HAGGERTY

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TX

2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Vernon Jung, Jr.

MORAINÉ PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WI

Vernon Jung, Jr. has a long history with the Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) Board of Trustees, where he has been an active member for the last 28 years—volunteering approximately 9,408 hours on community college-related activities and events. Jung leads with empathy, strategy, and passion—and has helped shape the future of the College and our local economy. He has also been active with ACCT on several federal-level committees, which allows him to influence policy and direction for all two-year postsecondary institutions. As a Moraine Park alum, Jung's passion for two-year colleges stems from his educational experience and the impact on his career journey. His service to

the Moraine Park District Board and local, state, and national organizations allows Jung to be a strong community champion—finding ways to amplify the messages of support for our communities, business and industry, students, and employees.



Congratulations to
Trustee Vernon Jung Jr.

The district board, students and staff of Moraine Park Technical College are proud to honor Vernon Jung Jr., recipient of the **2023 ACCT Trustee Leadership Award for the Central Region**. Thank you for your many years of dedicated and passionate service to the College, our students, and our community!



MORaine PARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

| morainepark.edu

2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Bakari G. Lee, Esq.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NJ

Bakari Lee has worked diligently throughout his life, advocating for accessible, high-quality higher education for all Americans, particularly those in African American, Latino and immigrant communities.

Since being appointed to the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees in 2006, he has rightfully earned the respect of colleagues throughout the nation, having promoted the vital role of community colleges as engines of upward economic mobility and cultural enrichment.

Over the years, he also served as Chair of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and in each Executive Committee office (Chair-elect, Vice Chair,

Secretary-Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair), National Regional Chair, and National Chair of the Association of Community College Trustees, playing an influential role in the establishment of student success programs, advocating for increased funding and tuition stabilization, and working to ensure equal educational opportunities for all.



Congratulations

BAKARI G. LEE, ESQ.

Recipient of
ACCT 2023 Northeast Regional
Trustee Leadership Award

Bakari, thank you for your leadership, advocacy,
and support of the HCCC Family
and the national community college sector!



www.hccc.edu

2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Deborah McCasland

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, AZ

Deborah McCasland has lived in Prescott, Arizona since 1962. She received her Associate of Arts from Yavapai College in 1973, a B.S. in Southwest Studies with a minor in Mathematics and an M.A. in Community College Education both from Northern Arizona University in 1975 and 1976 respectively. McCasland served as an employee of Yavapai College from 1976 to 2011. She held a variety of roles in Student Services, the Performing Arts Center and the YC Foundation. As a servant leader, McCasland has served on numerous boards including appointment to the Yavapai College District Governing Board in 2015 to present; serving as District Governing

Board Chair four times in 2020, 2021, 2022 and a two-year term in 2023. She has used her skills, abilities and focused effort to totally overhaul the Board's governance model and transition to a new model that has immensely improved Board operations, effectiveness and efficiency.



**ACCT Pacific Region
Trustee Award**

**CONGRATULATIONS!
MS. DEB MCCASLAND**

YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Yavapai
COLLEGE

2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Eugene Lamb, Jr.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FL

Eugene Lamb, Jr. is a symbol of the very communities and students that we serve. Born into a family of 16 children in poverty, Lamb learned quickly the value of hard work and survival. From the age of six he labored from sun up to sun down in the north Florida tobacco fields where he earned three dollars a day to help pay for clothes and food. In 1967, Lamb was hired to lay bricks of what is now Tallahassee Community College and ran seven miles each day to reach the campus. Little did he know that he would one day be appointed to serve as a Board member, let alone the Chairman of the Board.

Given his profound background and journey, student access and success have and always will be Trustee Lamb's focus. His mission is to encourage current students and the next generation to reach their highest potential.



Tallahassee Community College



Congratulations!

Eugene Lamb

We applaud the long and distinguished service of Trustee Eugene Lamb, from his early start literally laying the bricks that became the foundation of Tallahassee Community College in the summer of 1967, and his service as a teacher from 1971-2004, to his four terms as a Trustee at TCC, including leadership as the Chairman of the Board. Your commitment to the college and the community stands out. We celebrate your leadership and look forward to more to come.

2023 ACCT Southern Region Trustee Leadership Award



2023

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Brian Haggerty

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TX

Brian Haggerty is not only EPCC's Board Chair, but he is also EPCC's longest serving trustee, with 29 and a half years of continuous service. He was appointed to the board in January 1995, was elected to serve his first six-year term in May 1996 and has been re-elected ever since. Haggerty uses his personal passion for our community combined with his civic and public role to be a fervent advocate for education. He is aware of challenges and needs, and works to address them. As an EPCC alumnus, he has first-hand experience as a non-traditional, working student and parent which drives him to lead with a laser-focus on student success. He believes that

education is the solution to improving lives, promoting economic mobility and strengthening our community. Consequently, Haggerty has made a tremendous impact on postsecondary education in the region, the state and the nation.



BRIAN HAGGERTY

CHAIR
EPCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you for being a champion
to our college & our community.
As EPCC's longest serving
trustee, your leadership has
made a lasting impact.

Congratulations!

30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS BOARD SERVICE

2023 Western Regional Trustee Leadership Award

2023

EQUITY AWARDEES

CENTRAL

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OHIO

PACIFIC

KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN

TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

SOUTH CAROLINA

WESTERN

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE DISTRICT

TEXAS

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2023**

CHARLES KENNEDY EQUITY AWARD

This award recognizes exemplary commitment by a governing board or governing board and president of an ACCT member two-year postsecondary institution board or state board for two-year postsecondary institutions to achieve equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services. The Association Award honors the late Charles Kennedy, a trustee of Joliet Junior College in Illinois, who was a founder of the ACCT Minority Affairs Assembly, which became the ACCT Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee.

2023

EQUITY

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Cuyahoga Community College

OHIO



At Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®), the Board of Trustees and the President are fortunate to have a true mosaic of people who work daily to create a dynamic and rewarding learning and working environment.

Tri-C is deeply committed to the belief that diversity enriches not only our institution but all of society. Therefore, we appreciate the diverse perspectives and value the collective differences and similarities that make Tri-C a leading Northeast Ohio organization and a model for two-year colleges nationwide.

Measurable goals for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are embedded into Tri-C's strategic plan. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of individuals throughout our College community, Tri-C has been widely recognized as a leader in DEI programming and support for underrepresented students and students of color. The College has also seen increases in trends related to retention, graduation rate, degrees and certificates and senior management.

CUYAHOGA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE (TRI-C®)

2023

ACCT CENTRAL REGION
EQUITY AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Board of Trustees, honored
for their dedication to equity on
behalf of Tri-C.

tri-c.edu
216-987-6000



2023

EQUITY

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Kern Community College District

CALIFORNIA



Kern Community College District is home to the fastest growing dual enrollment program in the state of California. The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees and Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian have prioritized college access beginning for all students as early as the 9th grade and are fiercely committed to removing the barriers that underrepresented students traditionally face when attempting to access postsecondary education. Through intentional outreach efforts in rural communities, strong partnerships with local high school districts, and support services that range from the fields to the classroom, Kern Community College District is radically moving the dial on college attendance and completion rates in some of the most impoverished communities of California. The dual enrollment and early college work in Kern Community College District provides an exceptional example of the equity work that must be done to increase access and success for all students.



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COLLEGE**

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2023

EQUITY

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Tri-County Technical College

SOUTH CAROLINA



Developing a structured path to economic mobility and better serving Tri-County Technical College's under-resourced populations has been a continued focus over the past year.

College leadership made strategic changes in what, when, where, and how TCTC reaches, teaches and supports these individuals. One example is instead of approaching communities with a menu of services, faculty, staff and administration engaged in listening sessions to better understand their needs. Instead of focusing on the student alone, the focus was on the entire family.

Strengthening enrollment efforts and student support initiatives and refining strategies to improve access and success yielded positive growth in Hispanic enrollment with Fall 2022 showing the largest Hispanic student enrollment in College history.



Tri-County Technical
College is honored
to receive the
2023 ACCT Southern
Region Equity Award.

At Tri-County Technical College, our
vision is to transform lives and build strong
communities one student at a time.



TCTC

Tri-County Technical College

tctc.edu

2023

EQUITY

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

San Jacinto College District

TEXAS



San Jacinto College's mission and operations are based on a long-standing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We celebrate successes, and we embrace continuous improvement. Since 2017, the College has increased degrees awarded to underrepresented students and increased enrollment of students of diverse races and ethnicities. Additionally, demographics among the College Board of Trustees, leadership, faculty, and staff are diverse in race, background, and experience.

The Board led the College in establishing a Promise@SanJac scholarship that has increased access and improved the college-going rate within the College's taxing district. Promise outreach efforts encourage a culture of postsecondary education in underserved communities and promote the value of degrees and certificates.

The redesign of the DEI Council, using an intraorganizational collective impact model, resulted in exponential increases in equity work across all departments. More than 120 employees are directly engaged with the Council, and all employees are involved with DEI work.



CONGRATULATIONS, SAN JACINTO COLLEGE!

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees,
San Jacinto College is honored to
receive the 2023 ACCT Western Region
Equity Award.**



**SAN JACINTOSM
COLLEGE**

An Equal Opportunity Institution

San Jacinto College is committed to a culture of access, equity, and excellence for all students and employees.

The Board of Trustees, College leadership, and all of the College employees have long been focused on improving access for local communities with low college-going rates and underrepresented populations. They have focused on creating a culture of belonging and excellence.

The Board has set the vision for the College in developing policy and a strategic plan that reflects its commitment to the College's Mission of "opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve," and the College's Vision in which we commit to "advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community."

The San Jacinto College Board of Trustees celebrates the successes of its students and employees, embraces continuous improvement, and encourages diverse thinking and collaboration across the institution.

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AWARDEES

CENTRAL

DR. JO ALICE BLONDIN

CLARK STATE COLLEGE, OH

NORTHEAST

DR. BELINDA S. MILES

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NY

PACIFIC

DR. FRANK CHONG

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, CA

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2023**

MARIE Y. MARTIN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AWARD

ACCT annually recognizes the tremendous services of and contributions made by community college chief executive officers.

The Association Award is named in honor of Marie Y. Martin, who served as director of the Community College Unit, U.S. Office of Education, and as a chief executive officer in the Los Angeles Community College District.

SOUTHERN

DR. FOREST E. MAHAN

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SC

WESTERN

DR. JESÚS ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE, TX

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Jo Alice Blondin

CLARK STATE COLLEGE, OH

Dr. Jo Alice Blondin is a national leader in student success, workforce development, and equity, and has demonstrated an unparalleled and peerless commitment to advancing the community college movement through her tireless work as President of Clark State. Blondin's strategic leadership has resulted in an increase in state support of 63%, more than \$20 million in capital improvements from the State of Ohio, an increase from \$13 to \$27 million for the Clark State Foundation, and \$18 million in grant funds that support workforce and program development, youth programming, and the performing arts. Her leadership roles in national organizations, including as Chair of

the Higher Learning Commission, Past President and current board member for the National Council for Workforce Education, past AACC Board member and ACCT Advisory Board member, have raised the profile of Clark State and all community colleges.



AS PRESIDENT AT
CLARK STATE COLLEGE

*“I strive to serve my profession in a way that lifts others up
and provides opportunity for all.”*

Dr. Jo Alice Blondin
President, Clark State College

Dr. Jo Alice Blondin focuses her efforts on realizing the mission and vision of Clark State College. She is known for both her student-centered approach and her emphasis on workforce development. With her national, regional, and local service experiences, Dr. Blondin strengthens Clark State’s responsiveness to our community’s needs.

www.clarkstate.edu



CLARK STATE COLLEGE

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Belinda S. Miles

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NY

Belinda S. Miles serves as the first African American and female president of SUNY Westchester Community College, the largest higher education institution in Westchester County educating and training more than 22,000 students annually in one of the nation's largest metropolitan regions. In the first decade of Miles' presidency her leadership transformed the institution. SUNY WCC more than doubled graduation rates, improved college readiness, increased retention, and achieved unprecedented fundraising levels.

The recipient of numerous service and leadership awards, Miles is a locally and nationally regarded leader who advocates for workforce development,

economic mobility, humanistic approaches to technology integration, and community colleges as a disruptive innovation in academia that fosters an equitable and inclusive democracy.

Miles serves on national and local boards and recently led the college to be recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges for outstanding achievements in student success.



SUNY Westchester Community
College congratulates

Dr. Belinda Miles

on being honored as the Association
of Community College Trustee's
Northeast CEO.

We celebrate your dedication
and commitment to promoting
an equitable, caring and inclusive
institution with pathways for all
members of our community who
seek higher education and access to
economic mobility.



#WCChereforyou

sunywcc.edu

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Frank Chong

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, CA

Dr. Frank Chong is a courageous leader who inspires change and has created new ways to ensure all community college students can be successful in their pursuit of higher education. With over thirty years of experience in community colleges, Chong has transformed lives and enriched communities for generations to come. As the fifth president of Santa Rosa Junior College, Chong has served a diverse community for over ten years, advancing innovative programs and policies to support student learning and

student success, while leading through significant challenges, both locally and globally. Chong has dedicated his career to higher education and has changed the lives of millions of students through his empathy, relationship building, wisdom, and fortitude.



CONGRATULATIONS!



**SANTA ROSA
JUNIOR COLLEGE**

The Sonoma County Junior College Board of Trustees congratulates Superintendent/President Dr. Frank Chong for being named the recipient of the 2023 Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) Western Region Chief Executive Officer Award. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students, employees, and community!

The Sonoma County Junior College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnic group identification, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic condition, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures or practices; nor does the District discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment on the basis of their age. This non-discrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in District programs and activities, including but not limited to academic admissions, financial aid, educational services, athletics, and application for District employment.

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Forest E. Mahan

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SC

Dr. Forest E. Mahan demonstrates the qualities of a CEO who focuses on the development of the talents of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Mahan proactively seeks the win-win solution to any challenge faced with an emphasis on positive growth and teachable moments. With 28 years of experience in the South Carolina Technical College System, Mahan, through his progression from faculty member, dean, vice president to president, believes that growth and development of the workforce of South Carolina—both within his own college

and in the community at large—are vital to the ongoing success of our state's economic prosperity. Mahan credits the support and guidance of good mentors in his growth and advancement and believes in the importance of “paying it forward” to develop future leaders in higher education.



AIKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Congratulations!

Dr. Forest E. Mahan
President, Aiken Technical College
2023 Chief Executive Officer Award-
Southern Region

Association of Community College Trustees

The Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education, on behalf of the Aiken Technical College faculty, staff, alumni, and students, recognizes your commitment to student success, support of faculty and staff, and innovative collaboration with community partners. Thank you for being a uniquely powerful leader.

2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE, TX

Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez was named President of Texas Southmost College in the summer of 2017. Under his tenure, TSC has thrived. He has expanded academic and workforce programs, increased enrollment by 51%, and increased the number of degrees/certificates awarded by 109%. His exemplary financial stewardship — twice lowering tuition and the tax rate, while maintaining high quality programs — have made TSC the most affordable institution of higher education in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Because of his business acumen, commitment to creating a welcoming campus, and focus on creating pathways to economic prosperity

for the communities TSC serves, he has provided leadership for three innovative programs as models for use in two-year postsecondary institutions: growing enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic and reinvesting surplus tuition revenue in student scholarships; developing an innovative interagency hybrid model for campus security; and participating in the redesign of a state-wide funding model for community colleges.



2023 WESTERN REGIONAL CEO *Award*

Congratulations! **Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, Ph.D.**

President, Texas Southmost College

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, we congratulate you, Dr. Rodríguez, for this much-deserved recognition, and we commend you for your unwavering dedication to our students and employees. Thank you for showing us what it means to be **#ScorpionStrong**.



tsc.edu

2023

FACULTY MEMBER AWARDEES

CENTRAL

DR. DIANE ROOSE

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MI

NORTHEAST

SHERRY HEIDARY

UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

PACIFIC

JERALD MONAHAN

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, AZ

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2023**

WILLIAM H. MEARDY FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

ACCT recognizes that the central purpose of our community colleges is teaching and learning. ACCT annually presents its Faculty Member Award to say “thank you” to outstanding faculty members.

The Association Award is named in honor of ACCT’s founding executive director, William H. Meardy, who championed the concept of faculty excellence as the foundation of success in the community college movement.

SOUTHERN

DR. CHRISTINE PEGORRARO SCHULL

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA

WESTERN

DR. LAUREN GILLESPIE

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NE

2023

FACULTY MEMBER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Diane Roose

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MI

Dr. Diane Roose is a dynamic educator and thoughtful leader with a passion for introducing students to healthcare and helping them break through on their journey. Her storied teaching career is based on the concept of showing students the way by demonstrating integrity, providing real-world experiences, and working to instill in them a commitment to their career and lifelong learning. She has been president of The National Network of Health Care Programs in Two-Year Colleges, is a two-time AACC panelist, and is a recipient of a Certificate of Commendation from the State of Michigan.

Her journey through higher education also includes serving as dean of academics at Glen Oaks Community College and associate dean of health science at Macomb Community College, where she developed new programs and oversaw multiple academic areas.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Diane Roose

2023 Central Region ACCT Faculty Member Award

Thank you for being a dynamic educator who exemplifies excellence in teaching by demonstrating integrity and passionately introducing students to the healthcare field. We appreciate and recognize your thoughtful leadership, inspiring innovation, and dedication to instilling in our students a commitment to their careers and lifelong learning.



2023

FACULTY MEMBER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Sherry Heidary

UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

Professor Sherry Heidary is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Union College of Union County, NJ. She joined the College in 2006 as an adjunct instructor. Outside of the classroom, she has served as an advisor to the Student Government Association, American Honors Council, and PTK International Honor Society. Additionally, she serves as a Trustee on the Union County College Foundation Board and as a board member of the YWCA of Union County. Heidary is a dynamic, student-centered educator, dedicated to the success of her students, and extremely active in fundraising endeavors. She is widely acknowledged to be one of our finest instructors, highly present and

visible on campus, going above and beyond for students, active in various student engagement activities, and extremely active in our scholarship and fundraising endeavors. Heidary earned her B.S. in Polymer Engineering and her M.S. in Polymer Science.



*2023 Faculty Award – Northeast Region
Shahrzad Heidary
Associate Professor – Chemistry*

Sherry Heidary

The students, faculty, and staff of Union College are proud to honor Associate Professor of Chemistry Shahrzad Heidary, upon receiving the ACCT 2023 Faculty Award for the Northeast Region.

Professor Heidary is a dynamic, student-centered educator who is dedicated to the success of her students. She is one of the College's finest instructors, highly present and visible on campus, and goes above and beyond for students. Thank you for your dedication to our students and to helping them achieve their goals.



**UNION
COLLEGE**
of Union County, NJ

2023

FACULTY MEMBER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

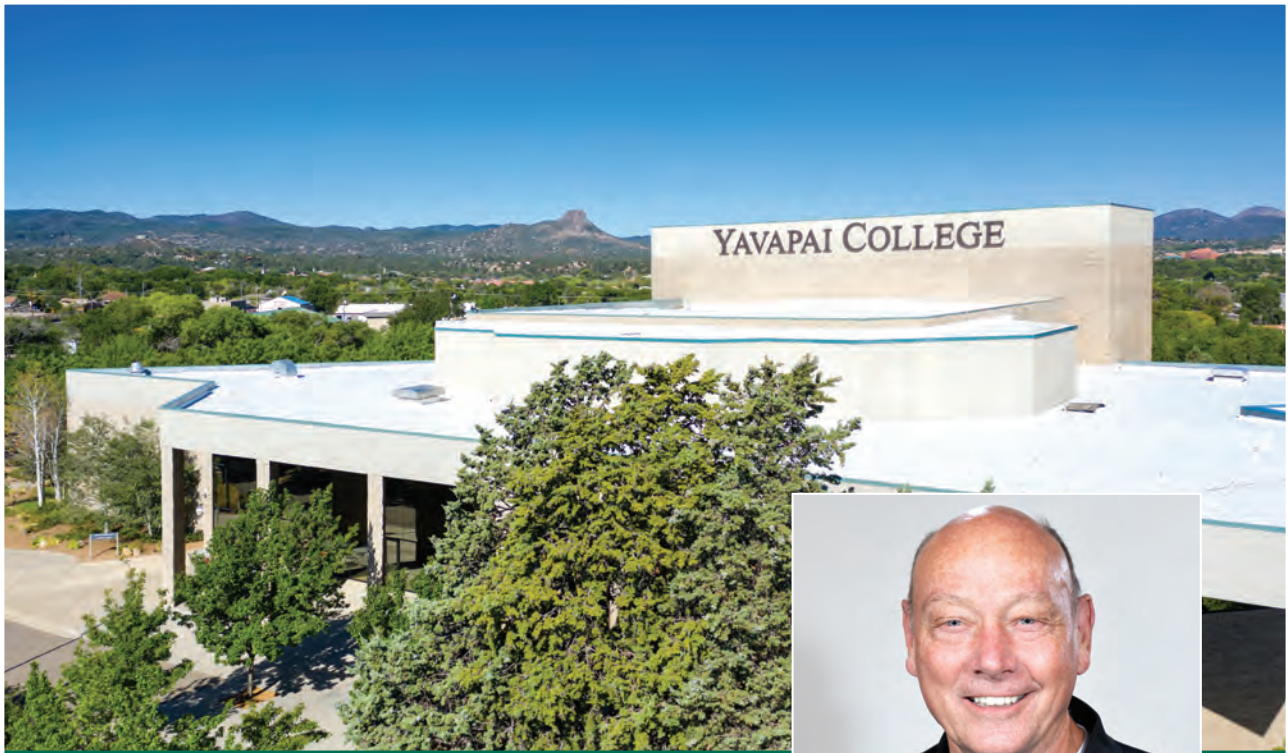


Jerald Monahan

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, AZ

Jerald Monahan is a dedicated educator and former law enforcement professional with a passion for empowering others. He has lived in Arizona for much of his adult life. Monahan's dedication to his profession led him to assume leadership roles, serving as Chief of Police for both the City of Apache Junction and the City of Prescott. Throughout his career, he continually expanded his knowledge and skills, earning an AAS in Administration of Justice from Central Arizona College and a BS in Public Safety Administration and MS in Leadership and Disaster from Grand Canyon University.

Later he became involved in training law enforcement officers at the Central Arizona Regional Law Officers Training Academy. Monahan's commitment to education extended to his role as Faculty Program Director of the Administration of Justice Studies (AJS) program at Yavapai College. Witnessing the success of his students brings him personal satisfaction and fulfillment.



**ACCT Pacific Region
Faculty Award**

CONGRATULATIONS!
MR. JERALD MONAHAN

YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Yavapai
COLLEGE

2023

FACULTY MEMBER

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Christine Pegoraro Schull

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA

Dr. Christine Pegoraro Schull, Professor of Childhood Development, has been a member of the early childhood faculty at Northern Virginia Community College since 2006 and became Program Head of the Alexandria Campus Department of Early Childhood Development in 2016. Encouraging active and cooperative learning in her classes, Schull is also a lecturer in the Family Studies Department at the University of Maryland and Chair of the Virginia Community College System Early Childhood Peer Group. An educator for more than 25 years, starting as an elementary school teacher, she has worked in various settings with infants,

toddlers, preschoolers, school age children, adults with developmental disabilities, community college students, and graduate students. Her publications and presentations illuminate the importance that early education and intervention play in childhood formation. Schull is a fierce advocate for early childhood education and has served in multiple capacities to advance its role through public discourse.

A professional headshot of Christine Schull, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark green top and a gold necklace with two circular links. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Christine Schull

**Congratulations,
Professor Schull!**

Recipient of the
2023 ACCT Southern Regional
Faculty member award

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College

2023

FACULTY MEMBER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Lauren Gillespie

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NE

Dr. Lauren Gillespie is a biology instructor at Central Community College. She has co-led a significant National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for CCC and made connections with several NSF projects, major research universities and industry partners.

As a first-generation college student herself, Gillespie is a positive mentor and role model for many CCC students. She regularly helps her students apply for grants, write papers, and present at conferences to give them an early experience of science and the research process.

*Central Community College and the
Nebraska Community College Association
congratulate*

Dr. Lauren Gillespie

2023 Western Region
Faculty Member of
the Year Award.



2023

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

CENTRAL

KATHY DIMITRIOU
HENRY FORD COLLEGE, MI

NORTHEAST

DR. KURT B. DOAN
HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MD

PACIFIC

RAFEEKA KLOKE
WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WA

WESTERN

PAMELA PAYNE
EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TX

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2023**

**ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF
MEMBER AWARD**

The Professional Board Staff Member Award is presented to a board staff member in recognition of exemplary service to a board.

2023

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Kathy Dimitriou

HENRY FORD COLLEGE, MI

With nearly 1000 employees and over 13,000 students, Kathy Dimitriou has singlehandedly managed the work that many institutions of our size have two or more people performing. She has worked directly in the President's Office and for the Board for the last 10 years of her over 45 years of service at Henry Ford College and Dearborn Public Schools (our Board is over both institutions). Dimitriou handles countless tasks on her own, ranging from all correspondence for the President's Office and the Board to organizing all VIP events, including visits from our Governor and senior US Senator. She has rare skills of adapting and learning. She started 45 years

ago with typing skills while listening to a Dictaphone, and has grown as the job continues to change. Indeed, just three years ago she sprang into action when the pandemic hit and she was able to pull together a new routine of communicating as a team with both employees, board members, and the community utilizing three different platforms, preparing and presenting documents electronically. She has given our Board of Trustees unparalleled service, in serving 16 elected Trustees during her tenure and has always maintained the utmost trust and respect.



The HFC Community Congratulates

Kathy Dimitriou

2023 ACCT Professional Board Staff Member Award,
Central Region

You have made our community better for over 45 years.

We are proud of you.

We wish you joy in retirement!

MAZZARA
& CONFERENCE CENTER



2023

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Kurt B. Doan

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MD

For close to six years in his role as Senior Executive Assistant to the President and Liaison to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Kurt B. Doan has proven to be an indispensable member of the Harford Community College leadership team. A consummate higher education professional, Doan is a model to his peers, a leader, visionary, and a team player who is always more than willing to roll up his sleeves to assist wherever necessary.

Over the past few years, Doan has demonstrated a very important quality: resilience. He has remained steady through the many challenges that community colleges have faced—including administration changes, enrollment and retention challenges,

and most importantly, supporting the Board and College leadership through the many hurdles that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Doan models the Harford Community College mission, vision, and values every single day and we are very honored and fortunate to work alongside him to move Harford Community College forward.



Congratulations!

Kurt B. Doan, EdD
Senior Executive Assistant to the
President/Board & Legislative Liaison
recipient of the
Professional Board Staff Member Award

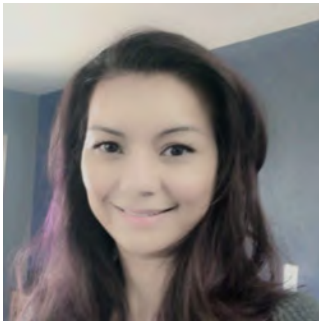
**Invest in
yourself.**

harford.edu

2023

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Rafeeka Kloke

WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WA

Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President at Whatcom Community College (WCC) exemplifies leadership at all levels.

Kloke serves as the primary advisor to the President and key liaison with diverse internal and external constituencies, providing direct support to and serving as the campus liaison to the Board of Trustees. Serving on President's Cabinet, she is key in implementing institutional vision and goals in support of the strategic plan and providing analysis and recommendations regarding policy issues.

She leads government relations, managing college strategy by strengthening relationships with elected

officials and government agencies and increasing their understanding of and support for the College.

Kloke's dedication to improving education is unrelenting. She uses her voice and extensive life and work experiences to advocate at the highest level of the institution for students. Her work supports educational transformation to ensure many voices and perspectives are heard.

Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**ACCT Pacific Regional
Professional Board
Staff Member Award**



CONGRATULATIONS!

RAFEEKA KLOKE

Bellingham, WA

On behalf of the entire community at WCC, we thank Rafeeka Kloke for her exceptional support and service to the College—and most importantly to our students. Rafeeka's commitment to excellence in pursuing our mission is steadfast and grounded in a genuine focus on our diverse students and honoring their investment in higher education.

2023

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



Pamela Payne

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TX

Ms. Pamela Payne has worked 38 years at El Paso Community College (EPCC) and will retire later this year. Currently, she is the Executive Assistant to the President and the Board of Trustees. Throughout her nearly 30 years in this role, she has worked with more than 20 members of the board, five Presidents and three Interim Presidents and has successfully aided their transitions. From working with trustees, administrators, faculty members and students to legislators, community members and business leaders, Payne is an instrumental force supporting many of EPCC's initiatives. Because of her dynamic personality, organizational skills and attention to detail, the Board,

President and EPCC constituents are able to concentrate their time where it can make the greatest impact. She identifies areas for innovation and effectively assists in navigating a path to success. Payne has a tremendous love for education, demonstrates a "passion for excellence" in her work and is committed to advancing institutional achievement.



PAMELA PAYNE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of the
EPCC Board of Trustees,
students, faculty & staff,
thank you for your
expertise & administrative
support. We appreciate
your service & dedication.

Congratulations

2023 ACCT PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF
MEMBER AWARD WESTERN REGION

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A

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ACCT ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**The South Carolina Association of
Technical College Commissioners
would like to congratulate our
state winners:**



Dr. Forest E. Mahan
Aiken Technical College

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



TCTC

Tri-County Technical College

tctc.edu

**Tri-County
Technical College**

EQUITY
SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Congratulations!

Michigan ACCT winners

Kathy Dimitriou
Henry Ford College



Dr. Diane Roose
Lansing Community
College





Congratulations!

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President
SUNY Westchester Community College
ACCT 2023 Northeast Regional
Chief Executive Officer



*NYCCT thanks you for your
dedication and commitment to
SUNY Westchester
Community College.*





TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CONGRATULATES

Trustee Eugene Lamb, Jr.

Recipient of the 2023 Southern Region Trustee Leadership Award

"Trustee Lamb is beyond deserving of this recognition. From his career as an educator and coach in Leon County Schools to his public service in Gadsden, he has led our community with distinction for decades. We are proud to have Eugene on our Board." - TCC President Jim Murdaugh

CONGRATULATIONS



BAKARI G. LEE, ESQ

HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Trustee Leadership Award,
Northeast region**



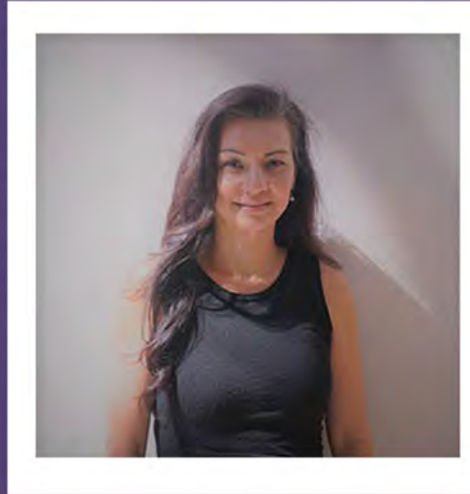
SHERRY HEIDARY

UNION COLLEGE OF
UNION COUNTY

**Faculty Member Award,
Northeast region**



Washington State
ACT
Association of College Trustees



Rafeeka Kloke
Whatcom Community College
Pacific Region Award Recipient

Congratulations to Rafeeka Kloke

Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CONGRATULATIONS, DR.
CHRISTINE PEGORRARO SCHULL!

FIND YOUR ANSWER

 **Virginia's**
Community Colleges

PAST ASSOCIATION AWARDEES

M. DALE ENSIGN

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS

2022: Deborah Ikeda, State Center Community College District, CA
2021: George Little, Sandhills Community College, NC
2020: Lydia Santibañez, Temple College, TX
2019: Gladys Christensen, Central Arizona College, AZ
2018: Barbara Oilschlager, College of Lake County, IL
2017: Dan Altmayer, Highline College, WA

CHARLES KENNEDY

EQUITY RECIPIENTS

2022: Community College of Baltimore County, MD
2021: Mt. Hood Community College, OR
2020: Illinois Central College, IL
2019: Harrisburg Area Community College, PA
2018: Howard Community College, MD
2017: Trident Technical College, SC

MARIE Y. MARTIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECIPIENTS

2022: Christine Johnson,
Community Colleges of Spokane, WA
2021: Monty E. Sullivan, Louisiana Community & Technical
College System, LA
2020: Margaret M. McMnamin, Union County
College, NJ
2019: William Serrata, El Paso Community College, TX
2018: Henry Shannon, Chaffey College, CA
2017: Lee Lambert, Pima County Community
College District, AZ

WILLIAM H. MEARDY

FACULTY MEMBER RECIPIENTS

2022: Patricia Maloney-Titland, Rockland Community
College, NY
2021: Kenneth Walz, Madison Area Technical College, WI
2020: Latoya Reid, Tacoma Community College, WA
2019: Amelia Phillips, Highline College, WA
2018: Maria Alvarez, El Paso Community College, TX
2017: Matthew Lewis, San Jacinto College District, TX

ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL

BOARD STAFF MEMBER RECIPIENTS

2022: Mary Lou Hernandez, Central Arizona College, AZ
2021: Sara Landreneau Kleinpeter, Louisiana Community
& Technical College System, LA
2020: April Sandoval, Coconino Community College, AZ
2019: Karen Campbell, Southwest Wisconsin Technical
College, WI
2018: Trish Villines, North Arkansas College, AR
2017: Mellanie Toles, Clark State Community College, OH

2023-2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROSE BENAVIDEZ

Chair
South Texas College, TX

JAY NARDINI

Chair-Elect
Hawkeye Community College, IA

RICHARD FUKUTAKI

Vice-Chair
Bellevue College, WA

CAROL DEL CARLO

Secretary-Treasurer
Nevada System of Higher Education

JAMES COOKSEY

Immediate Past Chair
Moberly Area Community College, MO

JOHN LUCAS

Central Regional Chair
Lakeshore Technical College, WI

SHEETAL RANJAN

Northeast Regional Chair
Bergin Community College, NJ

GILBERT WONG

Pacific Regional Chair
Foothill-De Anza Community
College District, CA

YVONNE BARNES

Southern Regional Chair
Trident Technical College, SC

DAN MIMS

Western Regional Chair
San Jacinto College District, TX

ANAY ABRAHAM

Miami Dade College, FL

STEVEN ANDERSON

Northeast Community College, NE

ANTHONY J. COLÓN

Mohawk Valley Community College, NY

MAUREEN DUNNE

College of DuPage, IL

NAN GOMEZ-HEITZBERG

Kern Community College District, CA

ZAIDA LANGE-IRRISON

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair
Gateway Technical College, WI

AMANDA HOWLAND

College of Lake County, IL

SHEILA IRELAND

Community College of Philadelphia, PA

VIVIAN MALAUULU

Long Beach City College, CA

BONNIE SORIA NAJERA

El Paso Community College, TX

DIANE NORIEGA

Mt. Hood Community College, OR

JERMAINE REED

Metropolitan Community College, MO

ARTURO REYES

Mott Community College, MI

OSCAR VALLADARES

Rio Hondo College, CA

PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH

Houston Community College System, TX

