

June 5, 2023

Association of Community College Trustees
1101 17th St NW #300
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the [REDACTED] Board of Trustees, we respectfully nominate [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the William H. Meardy Faculty Member Award.

A published psychologist and graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, [REDACTED] has committed her career to the mission of community colleges, supporting student success at all levels of the institution. To wit, [REDACTED] not only teaches students entering the United States with little grasp of English through the American Language Program, but serves as a member of the institution's honors faculty. This embrace of the community college mission of access and inclusion speaks to the strength of her candidacy.

[REDACTED] keenly understands the connection between the communities we serve and the College as well. According to the federal government, [REDACTED] contains - by percentage of the overall population - each of the top 10 municipalities in the United States for Korean-Americans. As such, [REDACTED] has developed programs that seek to engage the Korean community and contribute to lifelong learning.

Along with Professor [REDACTED], [REDACTED] launched a program featuring a series of lectures on American history, government and politics for members of the [REDACTED] Korean Community Center. The program provides lectures for 150 center members. Participants - many of whom emigrated to the United States during the last 50 years - each receive a certificate of completion during an end-of-semester celebration.

Recently, in a collaborative effort with the College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, [REDACTED] helped lead the development of "Our Stories: American Identity and Me," a project that tapped into the stories of members of the Korean Community Center, highlighting the complexities of "identity" in America and what it means to the Korean immigrant community. The initiative plays a central role in the College's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and outreach. The program received numerous awards.

While the aforementioned represent major initiatives, [REDACTED] also plays a significant role in embracing college life. She serves on committees for Asian Heritage Month, Women's History Month and remains a frequent guest at all manner of college events. Through her presence, [REDACTED] supports all members of the [REDACTED] community. Her visibility remains recognized and appreciated.

Without hesitation, we, the members of the [REDACTED] Board of Trustees fully endorse [REDACTED]'s candidacy. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss her nomination in greater detail.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Re: William H. Meardy Faculty Member Award Nomination - Responses

In what ways has the educator demonstrated excellence in teaching?

[REDACTED] has distinguished herself as one of the institution's most important faculty members since joining the College in 2007 after a career as a research analyst and published author.

As a psychology professor, [REDACTED] challenges students to think critically, while working to understand the root causes of perception. Students - including class of 2022 valedictorian [REDACTED] - frequently name [REDACTED] as influential in their learning at the College.

Most poignantly, [REDACTED] supports student success at all levels of the College - including for those entering as members of the American Language Program and all the way through the [REDACTED] School of Honors. Simply, [REDACTED] commits herself to all students - not just high-achievers.

At the College, [REDACTED] remains fully integrated into the institution's governance structure. She leads the Asian Heritage Month Committee, while serving critical roles on the Faculty Senate, promotion committees, cabinet search committees and the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Further, [REDACTED] represents one of the most visible and engaged members of the College community, frequently attending events, hosting lectures and participating in town halls, panels and activities.

What has this educator initiated and helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?

[REDACTED] spearheaded one of the most significant projects in recent [REDACTED] history that sought to engage the community - a critical focus area of President [REDACTED] and the institution's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. [REDACTED] County features a significant number of Korean-Americans - one of the top 10 municipalities in the United States, in fact.

Recognizing this opportunity for engagement, [REDACTED] developed an education program with the Korean Community Center. Led by [REDACTED] the center, frequented by both recent Korean immigrants and those of Korean descent living in [REDACTED] County, now offers a series of lectures on American history, government and politics. Classes include the "Culture of Prosperity," "Culture of Inequality" and "Culture of Progress" taught by fellow [REDACTED]n professor and collaborator [REDACTED].

Due to the success of the initiative, the College plans to expand the model to other demographic, ethnic and cultural groups by creating additional learning community programs.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED] also works with the College's Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, which seeks to raise awareness of mechanisms of social conflict, political and ethnic violence and genocide through educational initiatives, exhibitions, and dialogues. In this capacity, [REDACTED] brought National Book Award for Fiction-nominated author Min Jin Lee (*Pachinko*) to the College to discuss her creative process and share the history of her ancestors. Students also had the opportunity to learn the steps in becoming a published author.

Finally, [REDACTED] has played a central role in bridging the College with prominent members of the Korean community. Recently, [REDACTED] leadership led the acquisition of this year's commencement keynote speaker - Panasonic Corporation of North America CEO Megan Lee.

How has this educator served on technical or special committees that affect the college program in the community, state or nation?

[REDACTED] remains a contributor to the [REDACTED] Company news service, lending her expertise to topics related to education and psychology - including the rise and fall of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the psychology of escapism in pop culture and commitment to hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her commentary has appeared in USA Today and throughout the news network, helping to elevate the cache of community college faculty in the national space.

How has this educator provided leadership in helping to solve challenges to two-year postsecondary education?

Despite serving nearly 50 percent of the nation's undergraduates, community colleges often encounter challenges related to stigma or perception. While researchers and community college leaders agree one of the best methods to challenging these ideas remains community outreach and engagement, institutions can struggle making these connections.

[REDACTED] has embraced this challenge by flipping the narrative and bringing learning directly to the community without students having to enroll at the College. This work with the Korean Community Center, discussed earlier within this narrative, shows [REDACTED]'s ingenuity and creativity. Her engagement with the Korean community has created a legitimate pipeline of students and community members involved, or enrolled, at the institution. [REDACTED] now represents a destination institution for members of the Korean community because of [REDACTED].

How has this educator been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state and/or national two-year postsecondary associations?

Working with Phi Theta Kappa, [REDACTED] has remained an integral part of supporting student success initiatives. This work, recently punctuated by recognition for her efforts in the Korean community - discussed in the response below - highlights [REDACTED]'s exemplary contributions to national student success efforts.

What awards or honors has this educator received in recognition of leadership in the college or community?

[REDACTED] has received awards recognizing both her personal commitment and collaborative dedication to the College and community.

The Korean Community Center initiative has received numerous honors - most recently from Phi Theta Kappa. The international honor society recognized [REDACTED]'s work with the College's chapter in developing "Our Stories: American Identity and Me." The project tapped into the stories of members, highlighting the complexities of "identity" in America and what it means to the Korean immigrant community. The project won first place at PTK's regional conference.

Individually, [REDACTED] has earned honors such as the "Outstanding Educator Award" from [REDACTED] government officials, led by [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] Board of Chosen Freeholders (now Commissioners).

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Re: Faculty Member Award Nomination - Responses

I vividly remember the day I walked into the student center of [REDACTED] for a teaching position in 2007. As a first-generation immigrant who benefited from an ESL program and experienced cultural challenges, I could relate to the diverse body of students at [REDACTED]. Teaching is forming relationships with my students that is beyond discussing course material in the textbook. Students share stories that show incredible resilience and brilliance. We learn from each other and grow together. This has been especially true working with older, non-native English-speaking students from the Korean Community Center. I have also been able to collaborate with many wonderful colleagues and plan to write a book related to these experiences. Working at [REDACTED] has enriched me in ways that I could not have imagined and I am extremely grateful.