

2024

ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE TRUSTEES

---



## Congratulations to the 2024 ACCT Award recipients!

Thank you for your  
outstanding  
leadership and  
dedicated service  
to students.

**edamerica**  
*Advancing Student Success*

Edamerica is a division of Edfinancial.

855.493.1785 | [Edamerica.net](https://www.edamerica.net)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 5 Letter from the Chair and President & CEO
- 7 Trustee Leadership Award
- 19 Equity Award
- 29 Chief Executive Officer Award
- 41 Faculty Member Award
- 53 Professional Board Staff Member Award
- 65 Special Acknowledgments
- 76 Past Association Awardees
- 77 ACCT Board of Directors

# 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 2024 ACCT Regional 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.



**Jay Nardini**  
*Chair, Association of Community College Trustees  
Chair, Hawkeye Community College, IA*



**Jee Hang Lee**  
*President & CEO  
Association of Community College Trustees*

**2024**

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARDEES

## CENTRAL

**JOSEPH P. MURPHY**

MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

## NORTHEAST

**MARY M. ZIMMERMANN**

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

## PACIFIC

**JUDY CHEN HAGGERTY**

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE, CA

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE  
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2024**

## **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

**CARIDAD "CARRIE" LEE**

SANTA FE COLLEGE, FL

## WESTERN

**DIRK PETERSEN**

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NE

2024

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Joseph P. Murphy

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

Joseph P. Murphy has served on the Moraine Valley Community College's Board of Trustees for 23 years. During his tenure on the board, he was instrumental in enacting many of Moraine Valley's most significant initiatives.

Murphy has been dedicated to ensuring that projects fulfill their promises to students and the community, and that they are delivered in a fiscally responsible manner.

He was vital to the passage of the \$89 million bond referendum that

expanded the college's physical facilities and enhanced educational programs. He also was integral in bringing the college's fitness center to fruition. Murphy strongly supports outreach programs to Moraine Valley's district high schools to increase enrollment.

In addition to his long service on Moraine Valley's Board of Trustees, Murphy has served his local community on numerous boards and committees dedicated to improving the local area and community at large.

## MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONGRATULATES

### JOSEPH P. MURPHY

2024 Trustee Leadership Award  
Central Region



### DR. JOHN SANDS

2024 Faculty Member Award  
Central Region



2024

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Mary M. Zimmermann

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

Mary M. Zimmermann is a self-described “professional volunteer.” She has been a member of the Boards of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ for almost 20 years and serves as the Chair of the Board of Governors, Chair of the Educational Planning and Policy Committee, and is the prior Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. She just completed her term as Chair of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and is a prior member of the ACCT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

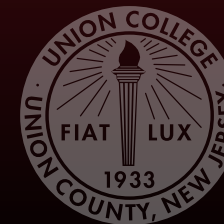
Zimmermann’s extensive community contributions were recognized when she received the 2019 Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award from the Union County Commission on the Status of Women. Zimmermann is a proud 2001 graduate of the College and subsequently earned her bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University. Zimmermann is deeply committed to education and understands its ability to transform a community.



## Mary M. Zimmermann

The students, faculty, and staff of UCNJ are proud to honor the Chair of our Board of Governors, Mary Zimmermann, upon receiving the 2024 ACCT Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Award.

**Mary M. Zimmermann**  
Chair of the Board of Governors  
2024 ACCT Northeast Region  
Trustee Leadership Award recipient



2024

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Judy Chen Haggerty

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE, CA

Trustee Chen Haggerty has exemplified excellence in governance. Her leadership roles include serving as President of the Board and guiding the institution through significant challenges and opportunities, including the post-pandemic recovery. Her work with the ACCJC and the CCLC's Advisory Committee on Education Services has cemented her reputation as a dedicated advocate for student success.

At the national level, her involvement with the Association of Community College Trustees has been impactful.

She has served as Director-at-Large on the ACCT Board of Directors, chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and led the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American Caucus. Her dedication to equity and inclusion has been a cornerstone of her work, advocating for policies and practices that support diverse student populations.

Chen Haggerty's impressive career as an attorney, educator, and community leader underscores her unwavering advocacy for students.

ACCT 2024 Pacific Regional Trustee Leadership Award

# Congratulations

Judy Chen Haggerty, Esq.  
Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees

In deep appreciation of your decades of service to our students, the college, and the community.



2024

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Caridad "Carrie" Lee

SANTA FE COLLEGE, FL

Since her appointment to the Santa Fe College District Board of Trustees in 2012, Caridad "Carrie" Lee has had a tremendous impact on the college and community. She championed the establishment of the Santa Fe College Academy of Science and Technology, promoted a college-going culture through the SFAchieve initiative, and supported many workforce development initiatives to advance social mobility and eliminate barriers to education.

She is heavily active in the community, having served on various

boards including the SF Foundation, the Community Foundation of North Central Florida, and Catholic Charities, positions through which she works to provide opportunities for education and well-being. Her advocacy efforts have brought legislative attention to educational needs and agricultural training. Lee's dedication to Santa Fe College is evident in her leadership roles, innovative program support, and continuous community engagement, making her an invaluable asset to both the college and the wider community.



## *Congratulations* Caridad "Carrie" Lee

Recipient of the ACCT Southern Region Trustee Award 2024

Your leadership and advocacy have helped ensure that Santa Fe College is the place where students and our community can bring big dreams and bold ideas. You have helped create a place where students, faculty, staff and our partners can thrive. Thank you.

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE

[sfcollege.edu](http://sfcollege.edu)



2024

# TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Dirk Petersen

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NE

Dirk Petersen understands the role community colleges play in higher education. He has a storied resume working in the steel industry and has served on several boards for his expertise in economic development and transportation matters across Nebraska. Petersen is the type of individual that organizations seek out to serve on their behalf as they work to better their communities and attract new business and industry to their regions.

Several years ago, Northeast established a workforce development

relationship with the Nucor (Steel) Detailing Center in Norfolk. Petersen was actively involved in recruiting Nucor to locate its new facility in Norfolk; fully understanding the drafting program at Northeast Community College would provide a pipeline of talent to the new center.

With approximately 40 years of industry experience, he is an invaluable resource when it comes to business, industry, and manufacturing issues, not only to the board, but to the College as a whole.

# *Congratulations* Dirk Petersen

ACCT Western Trustee Leadership Award Recipient  
**Northeast Community College**  
*Board of Governors Member - District Five*

Your visionary leadership and dedication have profoundly impacted our college's mission. Congratulations on this achievement. Here's to continued success.

***Onward. Upward.***

**2024**

# EQUITY AWARDEES

---

**CENTRAL**

**JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
ILLINOIS

**NORTHEAST**

**DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
NEW YORK

**PACIFIC**

**PIERCE COLLEGE**  
WASHINGTON

**SOUTHERN**

**FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
NORTH CAROLINA

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE  
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2024  
CHARLES KENNEDY EQUITY AWARD**

This award recognizes exemplary commitment by the governing body or president of an ACCT member's two-year postsecondary institution board, or a state board for achieving equity in educational programs, services, and their administration.

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.

2024

# EQUITY

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

## Joliet Junior College

ILLINOIS



Joliet Junior College (JJC) stands as America's inaugural public community college and a pioneering leader in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). DEI remains a steadfast priority, championed by JJC's Board of Trustees, President, leadership, and campus community. DEI is woven into the institutional strategic plan, DEI Plan, Culture and Core Values. Notable initiatives include:

- Hiring a Chief Equity Officer, with support staff and budget.
- Mandating Cultural Competency Workshops.
- Transforming a multi-stall restroom into an all-gender facility, in addition to having nine single all-gender restrooms.
- Establishment of four Employee Resource Groups (Black, Community Service, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+).
- Recognitions such as the 2021 American Association of Community Colleges' National Advancing Diversity Award; one of The Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges and a Top Employer for Diversity Jobs by DiversityJobs.com.
- Provision of a prayer room.



JOLIET  
JUNIOR COLLEGE  
— 1901 —

# 2024

## ACCT CENTRAL REGION EQUITY AWARD

2024

# EQUITY

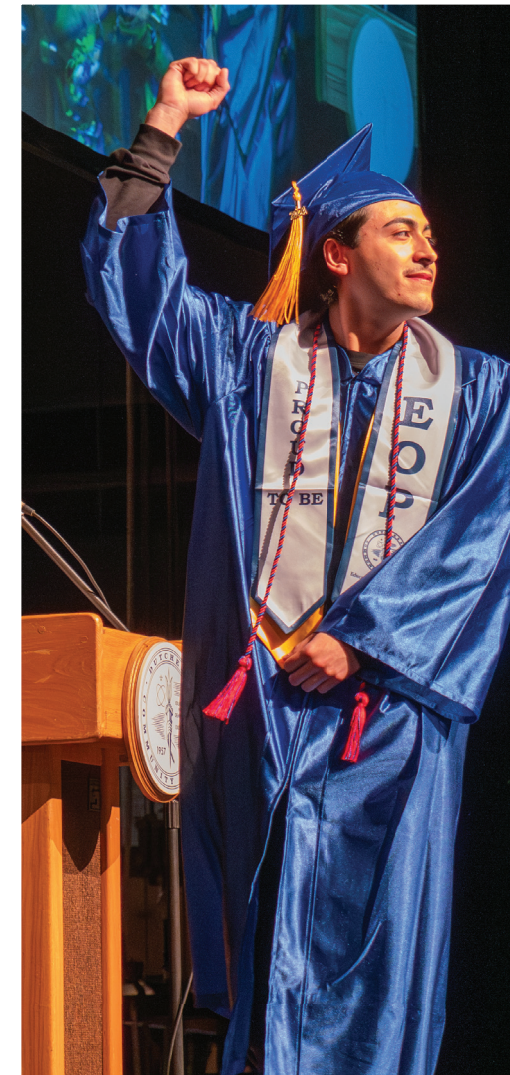
NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

## Dutchess Community College

NEW YORK



As a public, open-access two-year college, DCC has been recognized as an Hispanic Serving/Minority Serving Institution with Federal Title V eligibility, and the institution continues to make strides in all areas of operation to infuse the values of DEIB throughout. The Board of Trustees has clearly charged the campus with pursuing DEIB goals, and the campus community has taken up that charge seriously. As a new Hispanic Serving/Minority Serving Institution, its policies, procedures, and workforce must reflect the needs and demographics of their diverse student body. Through support programs, an emphasis on data, and a commitment to diversifying the workforce, DCC has demonstrated that it is up for the challenge. DCC has made measurable strides towards closing equity gaps and implementing policy to support DEIB within the past five years, and the adopted strategic plan ensures that this work will continue with the full support of the Board.



# WE LIVE OUR CORE VALUES.

At Dutchess Community College, we are deeply committed to fostering the success of our vibrant and diverse student body. Our inclusive culture thrives on:

- EXCELLENCE
- COLLABORATION
- ENGAGEMENT
- INNOVATION
- EQUITY

### **Congratulations to Our Board of Trustees!**

*We thank them for their visionary guidance and unwavering dedication in guiding DCC toward a more equitable and inclusive future.*

**DUTCHESS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
[www.sunydutchess.edu](http://www.sunydutchess.edu)

**2024 ACCT NORTHEAST REGION  
EQUITY AWARD RECIPIENT**

2024

# EQUITY

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

## Pierce College

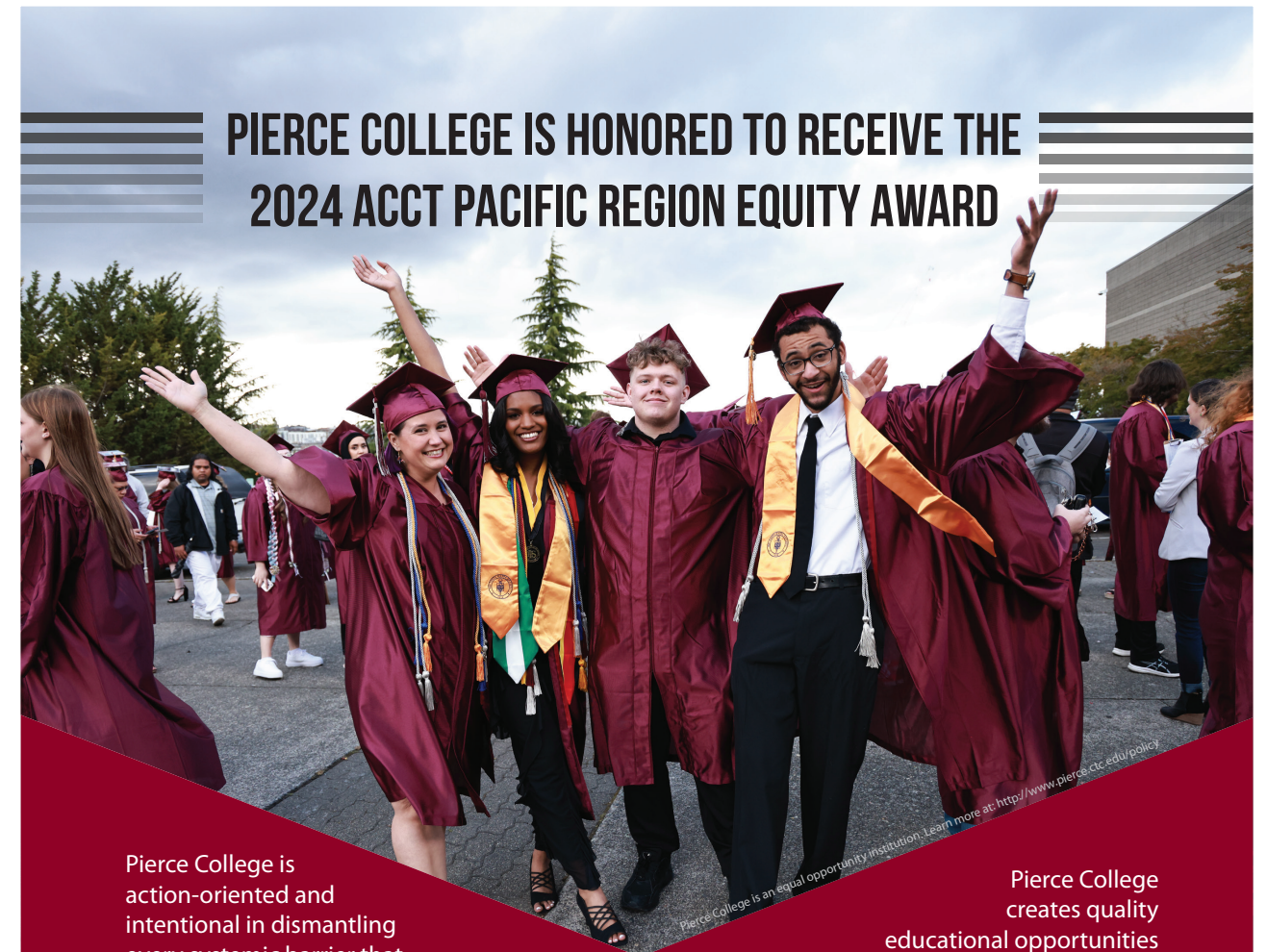
WASHINGTON



Pierce College has become a beacon of inspiration, leading the charge in championing diversity, inclusion, and equity. Through visionary policies and unwavering commitment, the college has created a brave space where every student, regardless of background, finds acceptance and empowerment to thrive.

Pierce College's dedication to breaking down barriers and fostering a culture of respect and belonging has transformed it into a sanctuary for all members of its community. By championing the rights and potential of underrepresented and underserved populations, the college is shaping a brighter future for everyone.

Through its unwavering commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity, Pierce College is not just transforming lives—it is reshaping the very fabric of our society. As stated in their nomination, "let us draw inspiration from the bold example set forth by Pierce College and let us each play our part in building a world where every individual is valued, respected, and empowered to achieve their dreams."



Pierce College is action-oriented and intentional in dismantling every systemic barrier that prevents Black and Brown student excellence and liberation.

Pierce College creates quality educational opportunities for a diverse community of learners to thrive in an evolving world.



2024

# EQUITY

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

## Forsyth Technical Community College

NORTH CAROLINA



Forsyth Tech's receipt of the ACCT Equity Award is a significant recognition of their relentless commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the institution. This award underscores their vital work to ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, have equitable access to educational opportunities and resources. It highlights their efforts to create a supportive and inclusive environment where underrepresented and underserved populations can thrive.



A place of promise.  
Un lugar de promesa.



Congratulations, Forsyth Tech,  
ACCT Equity Award for the Southeast Region!

2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AWARDEES

## CENTRAL

**SHELLY MONDEIK**  
MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WI

## NORTHEAST

**RANDALL J. VANWAGONER**  
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NY

## PACIFIC

**JAMES DALE (J.D.) ROTTWEILER**  
COCHISE COLLEGE, AZ

THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE  
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2024

## 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

**ANNE M. KRESS**  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA

## WESTERN

**CHRISTY PONCE**  
TEMPLE COLLEGE, TX

2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Shelly Mondeik

MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WI

When Dr. Mondeik was named Mid-State Technical College president in 2017, she inherited an eight-year enrollment decline and a culture of doing the familiar. Under her vision and leadership, Mid-State has achieved unprecedented heights of success, including #1 in enrollment growth in the Wisconsin Technical College System for the first time in its 110-year history.

Rather than seeking one idea to spur growth for the College, Mondeik quickly listened, and called for and supported a collaborative professional

environment. She also involved staff and the district Board of Directors in developing a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan built on continuous quality improvement and responsiveness to local workforce needs. Herself a product of the technical college system, she has proven to be a bold and enthusiastic leader who effectively combines data-driven strategy, collaboration, advocacy, and heart to engage and unify the entire College and community in her vision for innovative change.

# *Congratulations!* Dr. Shelly Mondeik



The District Board, students, and staff of Mid-State Technical College proudly congratulate Dr. Shelly Mondeik, recipient of **ACCT's 2024 Chief Executive Officer Award** for the Central Region.

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and commitment to the College, our students, and our communities.



[mstc.edu](http://mstc.edu)



2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Randall J. VanWagoner

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NY

In his seventeen years as President of Mohawk Valley Community College, Dr. Randall VanWagoner has championed accessible education, launching groundbreaking initiatives with statewide and national impact. His leadership roles in organizations like Jobs For the Future and the Strategic Horizon Network have furthered these efforts. VanWagoner is known for his ability to inspire and motivate staff, community partners, and stakeholders. He shares his expertise through presentations, publications, and his book, "Competing on Culture: Driving

Change in Community Colleges," which was part of the ACCT Futures Series on Community Colleges. His contributions have been recognized both locally and statewide. Before joining Mohawk Valley Community College, VanWagoner worked at community colleges in Michigan, Colorado, and Nebraska. He began his education at Mott Community College, earning a B.A. in Communications from Oakland University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.



*Congratulations!*

**Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner  
President, Mohawk Valley Community College  
2024 Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer Award**



**On behalf of the MVCC Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Your unwavering dedication to equity, innovation, and excellence has made a profound impact on both MVCC and the broader community. We are deeply grateful for your collaborative and compassionate leadership.**

2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## James Dale (J.D.) Rottweiler

COCHISE COLLEGE, AZ

Dr. J.D. Rottweiler has an unparalleled legacy of education and community accomplishments during his fifteen-year tenure as President of Cochise College. His commitment to inclusive and accessible educational opportunities that support social responsibility, community engagement, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning has not only benefited countless students and their families but has improved the fabric of Arizona's rural communities. Rottweiler's transformative leadership is most evident in his President's Leadership Academy. This groundbreaking

program yields remarkable outcomes, with two alumni assuming the Presidency of other community colleges. Rottweiler has nurtured individual talent and has amplified the exemplary impact Cochise College has had on rural communities across the nation. He is a skilled, passionate advocate for education, attaining previously unachievable support from state and national legislative leaders for communities big and small. His compelling advocacy and decisive engagement ignite a collective zeal, resulting in meaningful changes.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

**Dr. J.D. Rottweiler** on being honored with the Association of Community College Trustees 2024 Pacific Regional CEO Award.



COCHISE COLLEGE



**Cochise College thanks you for your transformative leadership, compelling advocacy, and zeal for improving the future of education and the fabric of our rural communities.**

2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Anne M. Kress

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VA

A nationally-recognized leader, Dr. Anne M. Kress is distinguished in academic, policy, and economic development circles. She has served as president of NOVA since January 2020, leading this comprehensive, innovative two-year college of more than 70,000 students across six campuses and online, making it the largest public higher education institution in Virginia.

Kress is dedicated to ensuring NOVA provides meaningful and equitable access to educational and economic opportunity; connects students to transformational, high-

quality programs; builds innovative industry and community partnerships; and increases philanthropic support of student success.

Kress's leadership was recently recognized when NOVA was the only community college represented at a Department of Education panel on advancing diversity and opportunity in higher education. She has received numerous leadership and service awards, serves on multiple local and national boards, and is frequently invited to publish and present nationally on community colleges' transformative impact on students and their regions.



**Congratulations,  
Dr. Anne M. Kress**

**President, Northern Virginia  
Community College  
2024 Southern Region ACCT  
CEO Award**

Thank you for your dedication to the students, faculty, staff and community of Northern Virginia Community College.

**NOVA** | Northern Virginia  
Community College

[www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu)

2024

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Christy Ponce

TEMPLE COLLEGE, TX

Dr. Christy Ponce, president of Temple College is a transformational leader who has spearheaded innovative changes to the college, introducing new high value programs and modernized facilities to support community growth and address shortages in healthcare and high-tech fields. She has expanded efforts in Texas and Rural Pathways to address postsecondary outcomes. She leads with a student success lens and implemented Caring Campus, 8-Week Course Redesign, and a Center for

Teaching and Learning. She has successfully raised millions of dollars to advance student success and implement innovation and technology. Ponce has assembled a dream team committed to student success and building strong partnerships. She has been active at the local, state, and national levels serving on numerous boards. Ponce is a caring and exceptional CEO committed to making a difference and putting her whole heart into helping Temple College build for the future.



*"Thank you for your dedication and commitment to student success and the community we serve!"*

-TEMPLE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACCT WESTERN REGION CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AWARD

*Congratulations!*

# DR. CHRISTY PONCE

PRESIDENT OF TEMPLE COLLEGE



2024

# FACULTY MEMBER AWARDEES

## CENTRAL

**JOHN SANDS**

MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

## NORTHEAST

**MICHELE L. ROTUNDA**

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

## PACIFIC

**TYLER WALLACE**

BIG BEND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WA

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE  
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2024**

## **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

**LYNN RICKABAUGH**

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SC

## WESTERN

**BRYAN EDWARD STONE**

DEL MAR COLLEGE, TX

2024

# FACULTY MEMBER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## John Sands

MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

Dr. John Sands is recognized as one of the leading community college cybersecurity educators in the country. He has over 30 years of experience preparing students for jobs in the vital cybersecurity field.

Under Sands' leadership, Moraine Valley Community College has been awarded over \$20 million in federal grants from the National Science Foundation, National Security Agency, and the Department of Labor to establish several innovative projects to provide students with educational

opportunities that help them gain hands-on experience and knowledge they will need to succeed in a challenging field. Many of the programs he oversees impact community colleges around the country.

Sands' commitment to fostering cybersecurity professionals across the nation has garnered the respect of experts in the industry, as well as in other higher education institutions, and governmental agencies. He continually seeks ways to support student success in his teaching practice.

# MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONGRATULATES

## JOSEPH P. MURPHY

2024 Trustee Leadership Award  
Central Region



## DR. JOHN SANDS

2024 Faculty Member Award  
Central Region



2024

# FACULTY MEMBER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Michele L. Rotunda

UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

Dr. Michele Rotunda is an Associate Professor of History at UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ. She serves as an advisor for the College's History Club and was integral in the development of the College's history program. She developed the HIS 290 course, a co-op education experience in history, which focuses on work in the UCNJ archives. In 2016, Rotunda won the UCNJ Neblett Prize for Educational Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Rotunda earned her M.A. in history

from Rutgers-Newark/NJIT Federated Program and her Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. She is the author of *A Drunkard's Defense: Alcohol, Murder, and Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century America*. She is an editor for HTeach, a board member of the Newark History Society, and chair of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance. Rotunda is a dynamic educator who embraces experiential learning opportunities to bring history alive for her students.

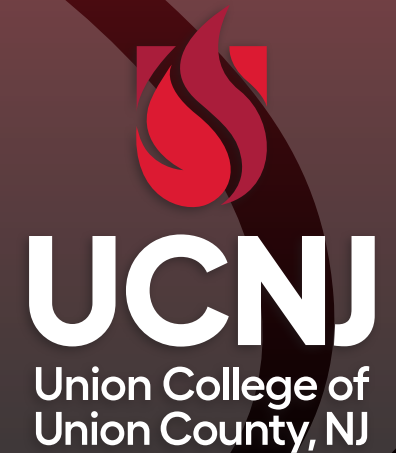
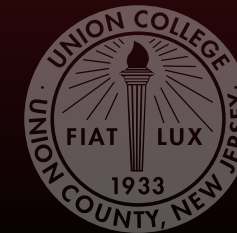


## Dr. Michele L. Rotunda

The students, faculty, and staff of UCNJ are proud to honor Associate Professor of History, Dr. Michele Rotunda, upon receiving the 2024 ACCT Northeast Region Faculty Member Award.

### Dr. Michele L. Rotunda

Associate Professor of History  
2024 ACCT Northeast Region  
Faculty Member Award recipient



2024

# FACULTY MEMBER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Tyler Wallace

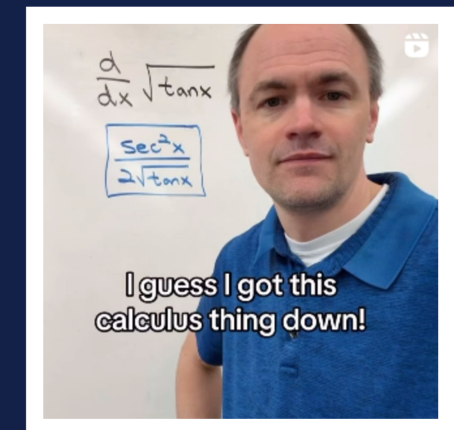
BIG BEND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WA

Dr. Wallace has a reputation among students as an instructor who is accessible, approachable, and a good teacher. Some students wait to take particular classes until they can enroll in his. His work to develop open textbooks, post videos of his lectures, meet with students outside of class, stream classes, and use social media to teach or promote mathematics all add to his student appeal.

Not only has Wallace established himself as a quality instructor, he

has also played an influential role in designing and developing multiple innovations within his department to benefit students. These include adopting an emporium math model, developing initial math placement by high school transcript, shortening developmental math pathways and refining them to different majors, and the testing of a co-requisite math instructional model. In each of these instances, he has been a positive force for making changes that help students.

2024 ACCT Pacific Region Faculty Award



Congratulations Dr. Tyler Wallace!

Thank you for bringing your passion for teaching to BBCC! We are proud of your commitment to student success and innovation in connecting with your students.



2024

# FACULTY MEMBER

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Lynn Rickabaugh

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SC

Lynn Rickabaugh serves as Department Chair of Mathematics at Aiken Technical College. An outstanding classroom instructor, Rickabaugh developed effective initiatives to bolster student success in mathematics, including required math labs, summer 'mathematics boot camps,' and the use of supplemental instruction by tutors in the classroom. She implemented innovations in mathematics course delivery, including developing live courses delivered simultaneously face-to-face and online, in addition to face-to-face, hybrid, and

asynchronous online options. She redesigned the College's mathematics curriculum, course structures, and learning outcomes to meet program needs and to speed students' progress through the mathematics sequence.

Rickabaugh worked with representatives from K-12 schools and four-year colleges to promote course alignment in mathematics, leading to high school graduates being better prepared for college mathematics courses. She is an innovative, bold, and determined leader, committed to student success.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lynn Rickabaugh  
Mathematics Department Chair  
2024 Southern Region Faculty Member of the Year Award



On behalf of the Aiken Technical College community, the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education thanks you for your innovative approaches to instruction, curriculum development, and course delivery. Your contributions have made a positive impact on student success and progress.

2024

# FACULTY MEMBER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Bryan Edward Stone

DEL MAR COLLEGE, TX

Del Mar College History Professor Dr. Bryan Stone exemplifies the values of higher education to be emulated across the state, and serves as a role model among his students and colleagues alike. He imparts on his students a style of learning history that is simultaneously exciting, complex, thought-provoking and deeply relevant. His students come away from his classes ready to engage

pressing issues in their national and local communities and with the skill sets to not only excel in further history coursework but also to succeed outside the classroom. Stone has been recognized with the highest teaching honors offered at Del Mar College, as well as the prestigious, state-wide Piper Professor Award from the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, which he received in May 2024.



CONGRATULATIONS!

DR. BRYAN STONE

*Western Region Faculty Award Recipient*

The Board of Regents, faculty, staff and students of Del Mar College want to thank Dr. Bryan Stone, History Professor, for being an exceptional educator who is compassionate, respectful, and inspirational. We thank him for his leadership and dedication to our students and are proud to honor Dr. Stone for being a 2024 Western Region Faculty Award Recipient.



**DMC** DEL MAR COLLEGE

**2024**

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

**CENTRAL**

**DIANE KERRUISH**  
ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

**NORTHEAST**

**MARIA FERRARA**  
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NJ

**PACIFIC**

**RENEÉ GALLEGOS**  
RIO HONDO COLLEGE, CA

**THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES ARE  
ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE 2024**

## **ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER AWARD**

The Professional Board Staff Member Award recognizes a board staff member for exemplary service to the board.

**SOUTHERN**

**ELLE PERKINS KING**  
DAVIDSON-DAVIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NC

**WESTERN**

**PERLA MOLINA**  
DALLAS COLLEGE, TX

2024

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Diane Kerruish

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IL

Diane Kerruish is the Senior Executive Assistant to the President of Elgin Community College. She also works closely with the Board of Trustees. They look to her for monthly meeting materials, scheduling community engagement events, and day-to-day awareness of what is happening at ECC.

Kerruish's knowledge and expertise of all things ECC extends back 16 years. She helped celebrate ECC's 60th anniversary and will also take part in ECC's 75th anniversary celebrations this year. She keeps diligent records

and has been called upon many times to sift through her treasure trove of institutional knowledge to help staff campus-wide.

Kerruish is truly an integral part of ECC. Her colleagues describe her as kind and compassionate—a true professional who excels in helping others. She deserves to be recognized for all of her hard work and effort throughout her impressive career. Elgin Community College would not be the same without her.



Elgin Community College is proud to honor **Diane Kerruish** as the recipient of the 2024 ACCT Central PBSM Award. Thank you for many years of dedicated service to the college, our students, and the community!

1949-2024  
75  
YEARS



Elgin  
Community  
College



2024

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Maria Ferrara

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NJ

Maria Ferrara provides high-quality administrative, office leadership and foundational support of the College community to ensure the success of the Board of Trustees and Office of the President. She is a dedicated, conscientious professional adept at partnering with diverse audiences, including her colleagues and the public at-large, to successfully implement business operations at Bergen. Her commitment to the College remains unwavering and she takes great pride

in her ability to support this institution and the goals of the President. During her time at Bergen, she has developed skills related to judgment, diplomacy, discretion, and confidentiality that allow her to excel. She has not developed these skills and performed at this level to earn recognition—she has done so as a reflection of her work ethic and appreciation for the College and its mission, truly believing that the work she completes in support of Bergen can change lives.

Bergen Community College  
Congratulates



# Maria Ferrara

2024 Professional Board  
Staff Member of the Year  
- Northeast Region



2024

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

PACIFIC REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Reneé Gallegos

RIO HONDO COLLEGE, CA

Reneé Gallegos has worked for over 36 years at Rio Hondo College and is planning her retirement. Currently, she is the Executive Assistant to the President/Superintendent and to the Board of Trustees. Throughout her close to three decades in this role, she has worked with dozens of trustees, and several presidents/superintendents and has successfully aided their transitions. Working with

trustees, administrators, faculty members, students, and members of the community, Gallegos has been a pillar of support for the college. Her leadership and professionalism support vital college initiatives leading to student success. Gallegos has a tremendous love for education, demonstrates a passion to serve others in her work and is committed to advancing the college's mission.



**Reneé Gallegos**  
Executive Assistant to the  
President & Board of Trustees

## Congratulations!

The Río Hondo College Board of Trustees and its community, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, celebrates your exceptional dedication to ensuring effective leadership and governance at our institution. Your tireless efforts behind the scenes have greatly enhanced our ability to serve students and our community.

Thank you, Reneé, for being a uniquely powerful leader and embodying the spirit of excellence that Río Hondo College strives for every day. Your impact is truly invaluable!

[www.riohondo.edu](http://www.riohondo.edu)

2024

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

SOUTHERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Elle Perkins King

DAVIDSON-DAVIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NC

Elle King deserves recognition for her achievements as a professional board staff member. Her diversity of experiences across both the K-12 and community college environments demonstrate the growth that occurs when a person is motivated by a passion for education and public service, combined with a commitment to quality results. Integral to her approach is her commitment to

modernization, technology, and simple organization that allows her to subtly improve processes and improve the outcomes of the board members and campus colleagues she assists. Her humility and desire to let others have the spotlight are characteristic of her overall brand: that of a committed public servant with whom we are all delighted to work each and every day.

# Congratulations!



## ELLE PERKINS KING

ACCT Southern Region  
Professional Board Staff Member Award

On behalf of the entire Davidson-Davie Community College family—our board of trustees, faculty, staff and students—we celebrate your exceptional dedication to student success and your unwavering support for our trustees and president. Your leadership truly sets you apart. Thank you for making such a powerful impact!



**Davidson-Davie**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2024

# PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

WESTERN REGION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Perla Molina

DALLAS COLLEGE, TX

Perla Molina has invested her life into the betterment of the Dallas College community. Starting in 1996 as a part-time administrative assistant, she has spent the last 28 years serving the students, faculty, administration, and leadership of Dallas College to advance its mission and bring economic viability to the residents of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Molina never stops learning or leading. The daughter of a single mother who immigrated from

Mexico, she now serves as the board liaison for Dallas College, providing valuable insight on how our elected representatives can serve one of their largest and most underserved populations. She is an advocate for students and employees alike, focused on reducing income disparity within the city, and championing causes that will provide needed services to anyone looking to transform their lives and communities for the better.



CONGRATULATIONS

# PERLA MOLINA

WESTERN ACCT PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER AWARD WINNER

Perla Molina's unwavering commitment to education and community service is truly inspiring. We applaud her achievements and are thankful for her invaluable contributions to our Board of Trustees, staff, and most importantly, our students.





A

W

A

R

# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

D

S

*Congratulations to Illinois' 2024 ACCT Central Region Award winners*

**JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
EQUITY AWARD

**DR. JOHN SANDS**  
Moraine Valley Community College  
FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

**DIANE KERRUISH**  
Elgin Community College  
PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER AWARD

**JOSEPH P. MURPHY**  
Moraine Valley Community College  
TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD



**Congratulations to our Esteemed Colleagues on  
Winning the Professional Board Staff Member  
Regional Awards!**

*We are so proud of your accomplishments and will be  
cheering the loudest for you!!*

Central Region	<b>Diane Kerruish</b>	Elgin Community Collee, IL
Northeast Region	<b>Maria Ferrara</b>	Bergen Community College, NJ
Pacific Region	<b>Reneé Gallegos</b>	Rio Hondo College, CA
Southern Region	<b>Elle Perkins King</b>	Davidson-Davie Community College, NC
Western Region	<b>Perla Molina</b>	Dallas College, TX



New Jersey  
Council of  
County Colleges

## CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU



**Mary M. Zimmermann**

Trustee Leadership Award, Northeast Region  
*UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ*



**Maria Ferrara**

Professional Board Staff Member Award,  
Northeast Region | *Bergen Community College*



**Dr. Michele L. Rotunda**

Faculty Member Award, Northeast Region  
*UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ*

**TO THESE LEADERS FOR PAVING THE WAY TO A MORE  
EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS NEW JERSEY**

[NJCOMMUNITYCOLLEGES.ORG](http://NJCOMMUNITYCOLLEGES.ORG)



*Recognizing  
President*  
**Shelly Mondeik**



The District Boards Association congratulates **Mid-State's President, Shelly Mondeik**, for being chosen as the recipient of the 2024 Central Region CEO Award, and her entrance for consideration in the national prize.



MID-STATE  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



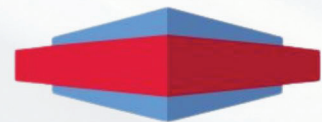
Mid-State

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DISTRICT BOARDS ASSOCIATION

*Congratulations!*

DUTCHESS 2024  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACCT NORTHEAST REGION  
EQUITY AWARD

*Congratulations*  
to your Board of Trustees,  
honored for their dedication  
to equity.



**NYCCT**  
NEW YORK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

*Congratulations*

California ACCT Honorees



**JUDY CHEN HAGGERTY, ESQ.**  
Mt. San Antonio  
Community College District  
Pacific Trustee Leadership Award



**RENEÉ GALLEGOS**  
Rio Hondo College  
Pacific Professional Board  
Staff Member Award



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

**Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner, President  
Mohawk Valley Community College  
ACCT 2024 Northeast Regional  
Chief Executive Officer**

*Congratulations!*



*Thank you for your many years of dedication and  
commitment to Mohawk Valley Community College.*



*Congratulations*

**2024 ACCT Southern Region Trustee Leadership Award**



**Caridad "Carrie" Lee**  
*Trustee, Santa Fe College*

On behalf of Florida's college trustees, presidents, faculty, and staff, the Association of Florida Colleges salutes you for your leadership and service. We applaud your accomplishments as a businesswoman, educator, and community leader and thank you for your commitment to the college and student success.

# CONGRATULATIONS

*ACCT Western Region winners from Texas*

**Dr. Christy Ponce**  
Temple College  
Chief Executive Officer Award

**Dr. Bryan Edward Stone**  
Del Mar College  
Faculty Member Award

**Perla Molina**  
Dallas College  
Professional Board Staff Member Award

*Thank you for your exemplary service to Texas community colleges!*



**Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees**

Washington State  
**ACT**  
Association of College Trustees



## Congratulations

**Pierce College**  
Equity Award

**Tyler Wallace**  
*Big Bend Community College*  
Faculty Member Award

**PIERCE  
COLLEGE**   
*possibilities. realized.*

 **Big Bend**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PAST ASSOCIATION AWARDEES

## **M. DALE ENSIGN**

### **TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS**

2023: Bakari G. Lee, Esq., Hudson County Community College, NJ  
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

## **CHARLES KENNEDY**

### **EQUITY RECIPIENTS**

2023: Kern Community College District, CA  
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

## **MARIE Y. MARTIN**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECIPIENTS**

2023: Jo Alice Blondin, Clark State College, OH  
2022: Christine Johnson, Community Colleges of Spokane, WA  
2021: Monty E. Sullivan, Louisiana Community & Technical College System, LA  
2020: Margaret M. McMenamin, Union County College, NJ  
2019: William Serrata, El Paso Community College, TX  
2018: Henry Shannon, Chaffey College, CA

## **WILLIAM H. MEARDY**

### **FACULTY MEMBER RECIPIENTS**

2023: Christine Pegoraro Schull, Northern Virginia Community College, VA  
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

## **ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL**

### **BOARD STAFF MEMBER RECIPIENTS**

2023: Pamela Payne, El Paso Community College, TX  
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

2023-2024

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **JAY NARDINI**

*Chair*  
Hawkeye Community College, IA

## **RICHARD FUKUTAKI**

*Chair-Elect*  
Bellevue College, WA

## **CAROL DEL CARLO**

*Vice Chair*  
Nevada System of Higher Education, NV

## **PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH**

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Houston Community College, TX

## **ROSE BENAVIDEZ**

*Immediate Past Chair*  
South Texas College, TX

## **AMANDA HOWLAND**

*Central Regional Chair*  
College of Lake County, IL

## **SHEILA IRELAND**

*Northeast Regional Chair*  
Community College of Philadelphia, PA

## **NAN GOMEZ-HEITZBERG**

*Pacific Regional Chair*  
Kern Community College District, CA

## **ANAY ABRAHAM**

*Southern Regional Chair*  
Miami Dade College, FL

## **DAN MIMS**

*Western Regional Chair*  
San Jacinto College, TX

## **STEVEN ANDERSON**

*Northeast Community College, NE*

## **YVONNE BARNES**

*Trident Technical College, SC*

## **ANTHONY J. COLÓN**

*Mohawk Valley Community College, NY*

## **MAUREEN DUNNE**

*College of DuPage, IL*

## **CARLA HEDTKE**

*Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, WI*

## **DEBORAH IKEDA**

*State Center Community College District, CA*

## **H. ALLEN LANGLEY**

*Cleveland Community College, NC*

## **VIVIAN MALAUULU**

*Long Beach City College, CA*

## **SUSAN MOORE-FONTENOT**

*Lee College, TX*

## **DIANE NORIEGA**

*Mt. Hood Community College, OR*

## **KEYATTA PRIESTER**

*Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair*  
Aiken Technical College, SC

## **JERMAINE REED**

*Metropolitan Community College, MO*

## **ARTURO REYES**

*Mott Community College, MI*

## **CAROL SCOTT**

*Del Mar College, TX*

## **DEBORAH TAPPENDORF**

*Eastern Iowa Community College, IA*

## **OSCAR VALLADARES**

*Rio Hondo College, CA*

## **ALLEN K. WILLIAMS**

*Monroe Community College, NY*





