



American Association for Women in Community College

National Board Election

Information Packet

March 1, 2019

Meet the Candidates for Board Membership

Vice President for Membership Candidates

Dr. Vanessa Anderson

For over 25 years, Dr. Vanessa Anderson has worked in higher education as a consultant, administrator and visiting professorship. For over 7 years, she has served within the Colorado Community College System as an Instructor at Aims Community College, Interim Dean at the Community College of Denver and Dean. Currently, Dr. Anderson serves as the Dean for Communication, Humanities, Arts and Design at Arapahoe Community College. She has earned academic degrees from Valdosta State University, the University of South Carolina, and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. Vanessa has served as a visiting professor at multiple colleges and universities, as well as, developed and delivered interactive workshops and professional development on regional, national and international platforms.

Ms. Cherie Maas-Anderson

Cherie Maas-Anderson has worked for Portland Community College (PCC) for the past 32 years. Cherie is currently the Director of Region 8 for the National Board of AAWCC and Vice President of Finance for the State Chapter of Oregon. She has been President of PCC's local chapter twice, President of the State Chapter of Oregon and a recipient of the Carol DesJardins award at the state level. She is seeking the Vice President of Membership to help all eight Regional Directors build up local chapters and increase institutional membership. Outside of work, Cherie enjoys spending time with friends and family, gardening, cooking, fly fishing and participating in triathlons.

Vice President for Resource Development Candidates

Dr. Claudia F. Curry

Dubbed by her colleagues as a trend-setter, Claudia is the founding director of the Women's Outreach & Advocacy Center at Community College of Philadelphia ("College"), a position she has held since February 2002. Her responsibilities include providing leadership in the development of programs that address the interests and concerns of women students, and identifying resources that support student and program development. For example, in 2012, Claudia founded the Homeless Student Support Project (HSSP) that over a four-year period, offered programs, services, academic and financial support for nearly 100 Pell-eligible students deemed homeless, near homeless and food insecure. She co-authored three proposals that resulted in \$55,000 for HSSP. Since 2014, Claudia has co-led the College's Women's Leadership Conference recently repurposed as the Parx Women's Leadership Academy that is funded by a \$1,500 grant (over three years) from Parx Casino. In 2018, Claudia co-authored the Department of Education's Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) proposal which resulted in \$1.5 million dollars awarded to the College. Under her management, up to 40 Pell-eligible student-parents' child care stipends will be paid to accredited providers through spring 2022. Among her campus activities, Claudia serves on the Student Affairs Standing, the President's Diversity Council, the Diversity Certificate Program Committee, and the Education and Human Services Pathways Team. Her external activities include Peer Evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In 2009, Claudia co-founded the College's chapter of AAWCC and served as its President-Elect from 2010-2012. Under her lead, the chapter grew from 11 to 34 members. She is an active member and proud to boast that it will celebrate its 10th Anniversary this spring. She is up for re-election to the Board of AAWCC as Vice President for Resource Development where she drafted a fundraising strategy for the organization's 45th anniversary.

Ms. Digi Edwards

From 1980 to 1990, Digi Edwards worked at BDM International as a Government Contractor where she worked exclusively for Joint Tactical Command Control Communications Agency (Pentagon) and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency developing computer models for the Army. From 1990-2010, she was employed with Datatel /Collegis in software developer, trainer, and onsite director positions under managed services contracts. Digi also served as an adjunct professor at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in the Computer Science Department. From 2010-2011 she was the project manager for the development of 2 English and 2 Math courses at the Florida Virtual School through a Gates Foundation Grant. Most recently, from 2016 through the present, Digi serves as Vice President of Professional Services at Ferrilli wherein she engages with college presidents and senior leadership to assist with technology strategy planning. She has made presentations at EDUCAUSE, Ellucian Live, AAWCC, HERDI, and CCBO and is a member of ACCT Corporate Council. Digi Edwards has a BA in Psychology from Flagler College and an MS in Software Systems Engineering from George Mason University.

Ms. Frances Villagran-Glover

Frances Villagran-Glover currently serves as Vice-President for Student Services for Northern Community College. Prior coming to NOVA, Frances served as the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Special Programs and Success at Houston Community College. She provided leadership for programs supporting student access, equity, and success. Recently, Frances has participated in national efforts focusing on tackling basic student needs and barriers to student success. Frances has held several administrative level positions both in the instructional and student services areas. Her proudest contribution is spearheading NOVA's college-wide MLK Annual Day of Service program now in its 10th year. In 2017, she was awarded the NISOD Excellence Award. Throughout her twenty-seven career in higher education, Frances has championed efforts in cultivating the untapped student potential. She has worked at four other community colleges and also has served on a national level working in workforce and academic support for the American Association of Community Colleges. She has worked on national projects designed to engage students in their communities through service-learning and civic engagement, facilitated faculty development and instructional technology programs. In 2018, Frances was appointed to the AACC Commission on Structured Pathways. As a first-generation college graduate, her family roots are her strength and they are a daily reminder of the sacrifices previous generations made to pave the path for access and success. In 2014, Frances was selected for the National Community College Hispanic Leadership Fellows program. She is also one of the inaugural Melinda and Bill Gates Scholar recipients. Frances is a native Texan, a proud US Marine Corps spouse, a mother of seven-children and a grandmother of two. She holds a doctorate in Community College Higher Education Administration from George Mason University, a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor's of Science in Community Health Education from Texas A&M University.

Region 2, Director Candidate

Dr. Okema S. Branch

Dr. Branch is seeking re-election as the AAWCC Region 2 Director position. She believes her current national board involvement and regional leadership has directly impacted the mission and purpose of AAWCC. Additionally, Dr. Branch's passion for the development, empowerment, and advancement of causes concerning women, involvement and leadership of the Tidewater Community College (TCC) Chapter of the AAWCC, partnered with my various leadership experiences - both at the College and in the community - are proven efforts demonstrating her ability to directly impact the growth of the region and AAWCC.

Region 4, Director Candidates

Dr. Alanka P.H. Brown

Dr. Alanka P. Brown is the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at the City Colleges of Chicago's Wilbur Wright College. She has worked in the field of higher education for over 13 years where she has served in both teaching and administrative positions. Dr. Brown has expertise in transformational leadership and the design and implementation of alternative student achievement systems. She also has a strong background in the facilitation of collective impact systems that establish and leverage collaborative work amongst the six key sectors of the community to further strengthen connections between colleges and communities. Dr. Brown is a sought-after speaker on topics of college and career readiness, postsecondary attainment, workforce connections, and alternative pedagogical strategies. She has presented at numerous state, local, and national conferences and serves as an expert panelist on national education foundation panels on topics that address higher education reform and student success; with emphasis on developmental education redesign and guided pathways.

Dr. Madonna Jackson

Dr. Madonna Jackson is currently employed at Mott Community College as the Perkins Special Populations Coordinator. She has been employed at Mott Community College since 2007. In this role she provides success coaching to students who are in high wage/high demand/high skill programs of study. Upon the student completing the desired education requirement, Madonna helps with seeking employment. Prior to working at Mott, Madonna worked as a site director for Flint Community Schools. Dr. Jackson was the first president for the American Association for Women in Community Colleges at Mott Community College (AAWCC @ MCC). During her presidency membership reached almost 90 members. During her tenure she led her chapter to establish the AAWCC@MCC Scholarship Award and Brunch. This event continues today and each year the chapter is able to award three book scholarships to students attending Mott Community College. The chapter was recognized by the National AAWCC as having a Model Program for the scholarship effort. As the current Region IV director Madonna has streamlined and improved the process of communication. Madonna holds monthly phone meetings for all of the Region IV chapter presidents. This is an opportunity for the community to share what is working and create solutions for areas of opportunity. During these meetings chapter presidents also learn what developments are taking place at the national level. Dr. Jackson earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, specializing in Educational Technology in 2015. Her Master degree is in Curriculum and Instruction. Madonna began her career in education as a History, Spanish and Political Science teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and working as a volunteer to educate people about the benefits and importance of organ and tissue donation.

Dr. Marcy E. Thompson

I have had the pleasure of being involved with AAWCC throughout my career in higher education. My first experience with AAWCC was in the late 90's where I was selected to attend the Women's Leadership Conference in Texas. That event opened my eyes and provided me with foundational knowledge that I have utilized throughout my career. I have been employed with community colleges since 1996 and currently serve as the AVP of Teaching/Learning at Elgin Community College and an active member of AAWCC. I have been fortunate to have held several different positions throughout my career in higher education, including, but not limited to, grant coordinator and grant writer, volunteer, adjunct faculty member, supervisor, mentor, colleague, leader and administrator. I am passionate about helping others achieve their goals and interested in engaging in organizations

that support leadership development for women as well as supporting student success. As I near the end of my career, I am looking at opportunities to give back and share my experiences with the younger generation of leaders in higher education and it would be an honor to be able to contribute through the AAWCC organization.

Region 6, Director Candidate

Dr. Ellen Crowe

Ellen Crowe is Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at Metropolitan Community College (MCC)-Maple Woods campus. MCC is the oldest and largest public institution of higher learning in Kansas City, Mo and serves over 16,000 students a semester. Maple Woods campus features an outstanding veterinary technology program, a geographic information systems program and a foreign language interpreting program. Maple Woods' annual Storytelling Celebration attracts thousands each fall to locations throughout the Kansas City area. Its community education program includes motorcycle training and College for Kids. She has served as an administrator both at the K-12 level and in higher education. She has been adjunct and tenured faculty both the graduate and baccalaureate levels. As faculty, she was awarded the Dewey E. Wilkens Award for Excellence in Teaching from MacMurray College in 2002. Ellen has held administrative positions at proprietary, private and public institutions. She earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum/Instruction from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Her previous degrees include a B.S. and an M.A. in Special Education from St. Louis University as well. She was inducted into St. Louis University's Hall of Fame in 2004. Ellen has served as a board member for OSF HealthCare, Cook County Workforce Partnership, Northern Illinois Workforce and Steering Committee. She is/has been an accreditor for various state and industry agencies. She has served as Vice President, President and Past-President of Illinois Association for Private Colleges of Teacher Education as well as advisor to student organizations such as Kappa Delta Pi and Council for Exceptional Children. Ellen acts as a consultant and provides advocate services to faculty, educational institutions (higher education as well as K-12) higher education, parents and professional associations. She has provided training and in-services to the same groups as well as pre-professionals in the fields of teaching and counseling.

Region 8, Director Candidate

Ms. Lynn Irvin

Lynn's heart and energy belong to the AAWCC organization. She is totally immersed in the organization at both the state and local levels. She sees AAWCC as a way for women to develop their leadership skills and to envision themselves in leadership roles. Her passion has a particular emphasis on developing women who are interested in learning to lead from where they are now, at this very moment. She currently serves as President of the Board of the Oregon State AAWCC Chapter and have served on the board for the past eight years in various positions. She was the Vice President for the Oregon AAWCC Summer Conference, Vice President for the Oregon AAWCC Fall Conference as well as serving as the logistics coordinator for the Oregon AAWCC Institute for Leadership Development (OILD) for several years now. OILD is an institute that is modeled after the National Institute for Leadership Development, known now as LEADERS. She has a lot of experience planning professional development conferences and activities! She attended both national AAWCC conferences (Portland and Orlando) and also attended LEADERS in 2017. Under her tenure on the board, the state won a national award for its annual fall conference. She is very proud of that award. She has been very involved in establishing a local chapter of the national AAWCC at Chemeketa Community College that won the national chapter award in 2015. She is proud of that award as well! To note, the Oregon AAWCC added a mentorship component to its state chapter activities and is pleased to have the second cohort beginning its 6-month commitment

in 2019. So far, so great! Oregon is a wonderful role model for AAWCC. She can bring a wealth of experience, motivation and a positive attitude to the national board!



Regions

AAWCC provides the constituency with regional directors for the eight AAWCC regions within the U.S. and Canada. Each region has a director who serves members, chapters, and sections.

Region 1

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

Region 2

West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, and North Carolina

Region 3

South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Puerto Rico

Region 4

Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky

Region 5

Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi

Region 6

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Minnesota

Region 7

Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho

Region 8

California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Alaska