

## FACCC Governor-at-Large

**Joseph J. Bielanski, Jr.** Berkeley City College

I am seeking nomination to the FACCC Board-of-Governors as a Governor-at-Large. I have previously served on the Board-of-Governors and would like to become active again especially given what Education is going through on the federal level. I currently serve on the FACCC Policy Committee. I am a long-time faculty member at Berkeley City College (BCC) and serve as Articulation Officer. I serve on the BCC Academic Senate and on the Peralta District Academic Senate. I also serve on various college and district committees.

I take my role in the California Community Colleges very seriously. As the federal government works to eliminate the Department of Education, the removal of DEI, cutting federal funding to states, the intent to downsize federal financial aid to attend college, and more, it is extremely clear that we must keep community in the community colleges, focus on the California state budget, and stay focused on being student-centered.

I look forward to being elected to the FACCC Board-of-Governors and staying focused on the role of faculty in the California Community Colleges.

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**Joel Blank** San Joaquin Delta College

Greetings FACCC Members,

I am seeking your support for the FACCC Board of Governors. As an active FACCC member and CCC professor, I bring experience, dedication, and a deep commitment to faculty and student advocacy. I have served on the FACCC PAC for a number of years, previously as vice-chair and now as chair. This role has given me extensive experience in the endorsement process and a strong grasp of FACCC's legislative agenda. Additionally, I hold a Ph.D. in political science and previously practiced law.

At San Joaquin Delta College, I co-organize biennial candidate forums with local organizations, ensuring our students engage directly with policymakers on CCC issues. Through internships and advocacy, our students have helped elect strong supporters to the Delta's Board of Trustees, the state senate and assembly.

For the past decade, I have attended every FACCC A&P conference, bringing students from Stockton – the most diverse city in the U.S. Many have gone on to serve in the SSCCC, become Capitol Fellows, and work as legislative aides and in NGOs, strengthening FACCC’s advocacy.

Professionally, I serve as professor and co-chair of the Political Science Department, co-advising the Politics and Law Club, the most active club on campus. I am also Pre-Law Advisor, Co-Coordinator of the Pathway to Law Program (Cal Law Pathway Award 2024-2025), and a board member of the Pacific Coast Association of Pre-Law Advisers.

Beyond contributing to FACCC's legislative advocacy for our faculty and students, I want to focus on growing FACCC. To maintain our influence with the state legislature, the CCC Chancellor's Office/ Board of Governors, and the public, we need more FACCC members. It is also our members who provide the necessary funding to KEEP our amazing professional staff, hire additional staffers, and enhance staff benefits.

I am eager to bring my experience and passion to the Board of Governors and would be honored to earn your vote.

Thank you, Joel

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**Grace Chee** West and East LA Colleges

I love my job! I’m an Africanist and World Historian teaching in the LACCD, the largest community college district in the country, and often called the “people’s colleges.” That term resonates with me because it speaks to our mission – to close equity gaps and foster future leaders because access to education is a human right.

I love my other job, one that protects our faculty so they can better serve our students and communities. As a union activist and Chapter President at the AFT1521 or the LACCD faculty union, I am a passionate advocate for equity among full- and part-time faculty, from evaluations to tenure, from health benefits to retirement security. I am dedicated to closing such invisible equity gaps as these.

After partnering with FACCC on community college advocacy issues, I am eager to get more directly involved. I currently serve in both CFT and FACCC’s Retirement Committees. I authored a resolution at the California Federation of Teachers for legislative advocacy that would compel all districts in California to offer Social Security,

and this passed unanimously in March 2025. I look forward to working with FACCC and sibling unions to advance our agenda in Sacramento. Thank you in advance for your support and vote.

In service and solidarity, Grace

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**John Govsky** Cabrillo College

My name is John Govsky, and I ask for your vote to be a FACCC at-large governor.

I have taught as an associate faculty member in the Digital Media department at Cabrillo College for over 25 years. At Cabrillo, I am a member of our Faculty Senate and vice president of our local faculty union.

I am a vice president of the California Federation of Teachers, and I am a co-chair of both the CFT's Part-Time Faculty Committee and the CFT's One Faculty Task Force. I also serve on the American Federation of Teachers' Higher Education Program and Policy Council.

I currently serve on the FACCC board, and I have been honored by FACCC with the 2015 Margaret Quan Award.

I wrote the resolution, passed by CFT, to create the task force to develop a strategic plan to transition the current two-tier system to a one-tier system in California's community colleges. I am currently putting much of my energy into the One Faculty/One Tier/Unified Faculty Model campaign.

I view myself not only as an educator, but also as a social justice activist. For many years I have worked tirelessly as a strong advocate for all faculty, while focusing on contingent faculty issues. I believe that I possess the skill set to help FACCC be effective in the years ahead.

I hope to be able to continue to serve FACCC in my role as an at-large governor. Thanks for your consideration.

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**Jacob Traugott** Sacramento City College

I am running for re-election as a FACCC Governor-At-Large. I started my life in advocacy with an award for the student who did the most for the LGBTQIA+ community in 2014. Since then, I have been a steadfast leader in education on equity-minded practices for my community and our intersectional siblings. Since joining the FACCC board in 2023, I have helped review and update our DEIA policies and values, promoted the unified faculty model, facilitated our Part-time Faculty Symposia as Chair of the Part-time Faculty Committee, held debt-relief workshops for our members, facilitated panels at our A&P conference the last two years in a row, and most recently acted as a group lead and facilitator for the FACCC Organizing for Power cohort.

I serve as the faculty tri-chair of my college's Staff Equity and Diversity committee, the chair of my local union's Political Action Fund Committee, an executive board member of that same local, and a senator on our school's Academic Senate. Though my most important work is serving you on the FACCC Board of Governors. Our fights are state-level fights in legislation and organizing. I am proud to have acted as a FACCC Liaison to the ASCCC Spring Plenary last year after pushing to coordinate the efforts of our Part-time Committees. I am proud to have worked with all of our institutional partners and stood before the Assembly Higher Education Hearing for AB 1705 to give testimony last month. I am proud to be a member of FACCC's Budget Taskforce and to have used the language and knowledge we are spearheading there to reform the SCFF to make resolutions and motions in my local union and my local senate. The work is never done, and I am just hitting my stride. Please vote for me to continue to serve FACCC, our interests, and yours. I cannot do anything without the help of you and your colleagues.

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### **FACCC Part-Time Governor South**

**Dr. Susan Finley** Santa Monica College

Dr. Susan Finley is dedicated to the growth and development of part-time faculty members as professionals, ensuring they can best serve their communities, institutions, and students alike. She advocates for collegiality and a working environment that values all voices in service to students. Dr. Finley is an experienced educator and mental

health advocate with nearly two decades in higher education. She teaches psychology and counseling at the graduate and undergraduate levels, with roles at UCLA Health, Pepperdine University, and Santa Monica College, where she has been an adjunct for over 12 years. She also has experience as a course developer at Riverside Community College District, and as a career counselor and associate professor at Pace University and Dutchess Community College in New York.

Dr. Finley holds a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University, an MS in Mental Health Counseling from Pace University, and a BA in Media Studies with a minor in Psychology from Fordham University, where she was a scholar-athlete.

Her research focuses on distance education, telehealth, mindfulness, and resilience. Actively engaged in mental health advocacy, she has trained at the UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center and works in suicide prevention.

Committed to equity, accessibility, and faculty advocacy, Dr. Finley aligns with the FACCC mission to empower educators and support student success. She champions social justice, diversity, and the vital role of community colleges in economic and social growth where every faculty member is an advocate, and every advocate is informed. It has been the honor of her life to work in the community college environment as an adjunct instructor, and she looks forward to representing her peers with pride and utmost diligence.

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**Desiree Ann Montenegro, M.A.** Cerritos College

Dear FACCC Members,

I am honored to announce my candidacy for Governor for Part-Time Faculty South on the FACCC Board of Governors and Education Institute Board of Directors. With over 14 years of teaching experience in the California Community College and University systems, I have developed a strong understanding of the challenges faced by part-time faculty. My academic background, which includes both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Communication Studies, equips me with essential skills in communication, organization, and leadership.

My commitment to faculty equity and student success drives my efforts to promote professional development opportunities for all faculty. I have actively engaged in initiatives that empower faculty, advocate for social change, and

foster inclusivity within our educational institutions. As Governor for Part-Time Faculty South from 2022 to 2025, I served as a liaison for Professional Development Committees and collaborated with the BIPOC Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. My experience organizing the annual Part-Time Symposiums and free workshops highlights my ability to connect colleagues and create valuable learning experiences.

In addition to my FACCC roles, I have served as a Union Officer and Academic Senate member on my campuses, advocating for part-time faculty rights. I am dedicated to ensuring that their voices are heard and valued.

As your candidate for Governor for Part-Time Faculty South, I pledge to tirelessly advocate for our collective interests and promote equitable opportunities for all faculty members.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving part-time faculty and to contribute to the advancement of our important mission.

Sincerely,

Desiree Ann Montenegro, M.A.

(626) 342-2911 | montenegrodesiree.ma@gmail.com

3/17/2025

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### **Part-Time Officer**

**Linda Sneed** Cosumnes River College

I am running for re-election as FACCC's Part-Time (Faculty) Officer and would love the opportunity to continue serving part-time faculty interests both within FACCC and between FACCC and other organizations. Before joining FACCC's board in 2023, I had long been a FACCC member and voluntary contributor to FACCC's Political Action fund and had participated in many annual Part-Time Faculty Symposia. I have demonstrated my commitment to representing and furthering part-time faculty professional interests by serving multiple terms on my local Senate, on my local union board, on my local union negotiations team, and on multiple statewide union bodies - always looking out for the interests of part-time faculty and others in similarly marginalized positions throughout our system. Most recently, I have been serving as

co-chair of the CFT Part-Time Faculty Committee with fellow FACCC Board member John Govsky and as one of the tri-chairs of CFT's One Faculty Task Force. I believe strongly in the role of faculty – ALL faculty: part-time and full-time, instructional and non-instructional – in driving institutional change to positively impact students and our institutional culture. Faculty are the frontline workers who are best positioned to assess students' needs and to advocate for their interests, as well as to protect and advance the interests of our profession. I look forward to continuing to work within and between our faculty-led organizations throughout the California community college system, including FACCC, to improve conditions and outcomes for all who learn and work within it.

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### **Secretary**

**Jason Mayfield** Diablo Valley College

My name is Jason Mayfield and I've been teaching Geology at Diablo Valley College for nearly two decades. I have served on the FACCC Boards for almost nine years as either Region A Governor, Board Secretary, or Board Treasurer. I recently finished four years serving as president for my local independent union, United Faculty of Contra Costa Community College District, and I am now serving the new present as the Executive Director.

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of FACCC Secretary. FACCC operates in a unique position that overlaps union workplace and Senate 10+1 issues. Statewide, they represent the voice of all faculty, and they maintain a powerful voice in the halls of the capitol in Sacramento. I am proud of my recent work on the FACCC boards and I believe there is still plenty more work to get done. I would be honored to continue serving the faculty of California's community colleges.

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### **Treasurer**

**Mario Martinez** Santa Monica College

I am running for Treasurer of FACCC, and I teach mathematics at Santa Monica College (SMC). My leadership roles at FACCC include serving on the Board of Governors (BOG), the Executive Committee as Secretary and Vice-President, the Political Action

Committee, and the BIPOC Committee. Further, I am one of SMC's representatives with California Community College Independents and have spoken at mathematics conferences. Locally, I have been deeply involved with my union, the Santa Monica College Faculty Association (SMCFA). I held the position of Treasurer in the past. I am currently serving as co-chair of Grievances and have been serving on the Negotiating Council for the last four contracts. My collegewide roles at SMC include serving on the SMC Budget Committee and co-chairing the SMC Benefits Committee.

With CCCs being funded at the lowest rate per student relative to K-12, CSU, and UC, if elected, I would advocate for a substantial increase to our base funding and a permanent extension of the hold-harmless provision with COLA augmentations while a new equitable and educationally-sound funding formula is created. AB-705 and AB-1705 have devastated the class offerings in Mathematics, English, and ESL and created huge barriers to success that have disproportionately affected students of color and those from low-income families. We must advocate for sensible legislation that allows all students to have the choice to take classes they feel are needed to remediate their skills and have a pathway to succeed in college level courses. Community college is about second and third chances, but currently only top performing high school students have a pathway to transfer. We also need to modernize our system by offering more online and hybrid classes to make it easier for most of our working adults and disabled students to attend and be successful. For our part-time colleagues, we need to support legislation that would move us closer to the "one tier" system and for the creation of a statewide health, vision, and dental pool where any part-time faculty member who meets the minimum threshold may access their benefits paid for by the state regardless of their districts' participation in the program. Finally, we need to introduce legislation to improve reemployment rights, pay equity, and benefits. I humbly ask for your support. Thank you very much.