

CVPPAC CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (SCCCD)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION

Please limit your responses to the following questions to no more than 100 words per question.

1. What are your educational qualifications, experience and training for the position?

Over 15 years of advocacy, policy, and community organizing work through nonprofits. I have worked to protect, inform, educate and advocate for my community. In my current position as Board Consultant for Governing Board Member Gideon Kracov for the CARB, I have the capacity to advocate for the Valley's needs, ensuring that marginalized communities impacted by pollution are prioritized. I volunteer on the Measure C Citizen's Oversight Committee for Fresno County's transportation needs. I am an Emerge California Alumni Class of 2020 graduate. I have trained in the Gamaliel National Leadership program in 2018.

2. Why do you want to be a trustee on the SCCC Board of Trustees?

I believe for a community to thrive, we need educated and skilled individuals and state center is where many residents attend to receive an education. I attended Fresno City College and it was my first college experience, I want to achieve better outcomes for our students and ensure that all opportunities are presented. There are many grants and funding opportunities coming and we need to position ourselves to get these much needed resources to continue to grow our community colleges locally. I can bring a community advocate perspective as well as an environmental lens to this governing board of trustees.

3. What are your priorities regarding educating the residents of the SCCC so they are prepared for the 21st century?

I have many priorities in regards to making sure we have classes available for green job training, nursing programs, regenerative agriculture, sequestration programs,

technical assistance, and skilled workforce training.

4. What are the biggest challenges facing the residents and students of SCCCD?

There are so many problems our students face. I would say affordable housing is one of the major challenges students face.

5. How would you like the SCCCD to address the problem of homeless students in community colleges?

I would like to secure state funding from Student Housing Grant Program proposed at \$2 billion for student housing projects, and half going specifically to house community college students. There is also AB 1602 California Student Housing Revolving Fund which if passed will provide zero interest loans for student housing projects. If elected, I am making it a high priority to secure funding to build more affordable housing near our community college campuses.

6. Funding for community colleges is based on how many students are enrolled each year. Fresno City College enrollment declined in Fall 2021 and again in Spring 2022. How should the SCCCD address falling enrollment?

Work with the high schools on Zoom and In-person workshops for enrollment applications and how to apply for scholarships, and FAFSA. Also, making sure these workshops are offered in other threshold languages such as Spanish, Miztec, Hmong, Punjabi, etc. so that the process is more inclusive for ESL students.

7. How much should it cost students to obtain an education at a community college? Is it financially worthwhile to attend a community college?

College should be affordable for everyone, and typically community college education varies in cost from \$1,997 per year for in-state students and \$7,123 for out-of-state students. This is still costly, but more cost effective than attending a university straight out of high school. A student can save money attending a community college to earn their general education credits and/or 2 year degree to potentially transfer to a 4 year university. They can also go into an apprenticeship or

trades program rather than going to a 4 year university.

8. Who are your top 3 financial donors?

State Center Federation of Teachers AFT Local 1533, Operating Engineers Union Local 3, and Carpenters Union Local 701

9. How should the community colleges respond to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic?

Having students tested weekly is an effective way to respond, and also making sure that the community colleges are following CDC guidelines as the pandemic continues. Having sanitation stations around campus with sanitizer is helpful, and making sure the bathrooms are cleaned regularly as well as classrooms will also help to limit exposure. I would encourage more vaccination events on campus as well to make it more accessible for students and their families to get vaccinated.