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The Association of Community College Trustees Board of Directors and President are pleased to announce the 2021 Regional ACCT Awards recipients.

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.

David Mathis, ACCT Chair, Trustee Mohawk Valley Community College

J. Noah Brown, President & CEO ACCT
AWARDEES

CENTRAL REGION

Thomas Milligan
Edison State Community College, OHIO

NORTHEAST REGION

Victor M. Richel
Union County College, NEW JERSEY

PACIFIC REGION

Demion Clinco
Pima County Community College District, ARIZONA

SOUTHERN REGION

George Little
Sandhills Community College, NORTH CAROLINA

WESTERN REGION

Gigi Edwards Bryant
Austin Community College District, TEXAS

TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP

2021 Regional Trustee Leadership Awardees

and

Nominees for the 2021 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.
Edison State Community College congratulates Thomas P. Milligan on winning the 2021 Central Region ACCT Trustee Leadership Award.

http://www.edisonohio.edu

Congratulations!

Thank you for over 22 years of dedicated leadership.

Edison State Community College
Ohio

Thomas "Tom" Milligan embodies the legacy of M. Dale Ensign through his leadership on the Edison State Community College Board, his advocacy for community colleges in Ohio, and his presentations and mentoring via ACCT conferences and workshops.

Milligan is a second-generation member of the Board for Edison State. His uncle, Samuel Milligan founded the college in 1974. Throughout his 22 years of service, Milligan has served the Board as Chair, as a member of the Executive Committee, Presidential Search Committee, capital campaign lead, and he currently serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Milligan led the adoption of the Guided Pathways approach to student success at Edison State and promoted the approach to Trustees at state and national conferences. He has connected Edison State with a partner college in Colombia, South America and Milligan has focused the Edison State Diversity Committee on support for African American students at Edison State.
The students, faculty, and staff of Union County College are proud to honor Victor M. Richel, Chair of the Union County College Board of Trustees, upon receiving the ACCT 2021 Trustee Leadership Award for the Northeast Region.

We are grateful for your service, leadership, and wisdom. Your vision and support enable Union County College to continue Transforming our Community... One Student at a Time.

VICTOR M. RICHEL
Union County College
NEW JERSEY

VICTOR M. RICHEL IS A COMMUNITY leader, philanthropist, and businessman. He has been a member of the Board of Union County College for almost 40 years and has served as Chairman for the last 27 years. In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trinitas Health and Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, NJ. Richel previously served as Vice President for Elizabethtown Gas and it was under his leadership that the company gifted its building in Elizabeth to Union County College. That building is now known as the Lessner Building and today, combined with the Kellogg Building, they comprise the College’s Elizabeth campus.

Richel graduated from Villanova University with a B.S. in Economics. He furthered his education by attending marketing and executive development programs at Columbia University and Harvard Business School. Richel is committed to education and understands the power it has to transform a community.
Board Chair Demion Clinco

The Pima Community College Governing Board, faculty, staff and students, proudly congratulate Board Chair Demion Clinco for earning the 2021 ACCT Pacific Regional Trustee Leadership Award.

Demion Clinco
Pima County Community College District
Arizona

Board Chair Demion Clinco was appointed to the five-member Pima County Community College District Governing Board in 2015 and subsequently elected to a six-year term representing Pima County’s District 2. In 2017, he was elected Vice Chair and in 2018 assumed the role of Chair. Clinco has been instrumental in transforming Pima Community College to the premiere institution of higher education that it is now. He has been the driving force in the development and resourcing of Pima Community College’s Centers of Excellence (CoE) concept and also set the foundation for Pima winning the 2020 Bellwether Consortium Award in the Instructional Programs & Services category for the submission "Transform Developmental Education, Transform an Institution." All the while leading the college during the most turbulent period in the college’s history, the COVID-19 pandemic, with no transmission of the virus within college facilities.
IN 1981, A 30-YEAR-OLD SMALL BUSINESS owner began what has become a four-decade appointment to the Sandhills Community College (SCC)'s Board of Trustees. George Little would soon become board chairman, an appointment that has now exceeded 30 years. In the intervening years, Little has grown his business to one of the most prosperous agencies and has secured a place among the ranks of the nation's visionary and impactful two-year college trustees. His trustee efforts culminated in his rise through the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees to become the national Association of Community College Trustees Chair in 2002. In the decades since, Little has continued as SCC’s board chair, guiding the launch of more than 30 innovative programs. He has set benchmarks for academic and social outreach excellence in both the North Carolina Community College System and throughout the nation. His is a story of commitment to educational excellence.

GEORGE LITTLE
Sandhills Community College
NORTH CAROLINA

Congratulations
George Little

2021 ACCT Southern Region Trustee Leadership Award

Four decades of service, vision and leadership with a dedication to SCC students, faculty and staff and to the entire Sandhills region of North Carolina.

Appointed to Board of Trustees in 1981 Serving as Chairman since 1984
Gigi Edwards Bryant was elected to the Austin Community College District (ACCD) Board of Trustees in December 2014 and was reelected in 2020. She has recently completed four consecutive years on the ACCD Board’s executive committee, first as Vice Chair (2017, 2018) and then as Chair (2019, 2020). Her agile and compassionate leadership allowed ACCD to keep the safety of students and staff as a top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bryant, an ACCD Alumni, serves the community through organizations that address issues surrounding family, education, youth in the foster system, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Bryant’s contributions to effective governance over her last seven years on the ACCD Board will have a long-term impact on Central Texas.
EQUITY

2021 Regional Equity Awardees

and

Nominees for the 2021 Charles Kennedy Equity Award

This award recognizes exemplary commitment by a governing board or governing board and president of an ACCT member two-year postsecondary institution board or state board for two-year postsecondary institutions to achieve equity in the college’s education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services.

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.
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RIGHTING THE RACIAL INEQUITIES THAT EXIST RESTS on many shoulders; the Madison College Board of Trustees understands this, actively undertaking actions to work with college administrators in supporting equity and inclusion efforts at all levels of the college. The Board went beyond a resolution denouncing systemic racism and affirming the District’s commitment to Black students and all students of color in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, they wholeheartedly supported the college’s Equity and Inclusion Plan, vigorously track and monitor student progress through their Board End Reports; and make essential connections with the community to understand the evolving needs and ensure that the college is responsive. The Board of Trustees supports policies and programs that address inequities in student persistence and achievement such as the Men of Excellence initiative by providing wraparound services to Black and Latinx students.

Madison College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. Appeals regarding the handling of complaints are handled by the Affirmative Action Officer, 1701 Wright Street, Madison, WI, 53704. Phone 608.243.4137.

Madison College Technical College is honored to receive the 2021 ACCT Central Regional Equity Award.

EQUITY

CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WISCONSIN

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

—James Baldwin
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HCCC) SERVES ONE OF THE MOST ethnically and racially diverse areas of the United States; 87% of the HCCC student body is non-white. In establishing the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), HCCC added, expanded and enhanced programs, services, and academic offerings to further remove barriers to retention and completion; helped ensure access to more and greater opportunities for success in achieving academic goals and rewarding, sustainable careers; and, most importantly, deepened understanding and respect for all. PACDEI is embraced by the entire HCCC community — Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and community partners — and interwoven into every aspect of the College’s operations, particularly the College’s Achieving the Dream and “Hudson Helps” initiatives that are grounded in principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. HCCC is proud to be an agent of social and economic transformation for our students, and all residents of Hudson County.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY

The Hudson County Community College family expresses heartfelt gratitude to ACCT for naming HCCC the 2021 recipient of the Northeast Region Equity Award. We thank and congratulate all HCCC students, faculty, staff and trustees for their inspirational commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all forms!

Koral Booth, Alumni Representative
Joseph Doria, Jr., Ed.D.
Karen Fahrenholz, Secretary/Treasurer
Adamarys Galvin
Pamela Gardner
Robert Kenny
Bakari Lee, Esq., Vice Chair
William Netchert, Esq., Chair
Jeanette Peña
Christopher Reber, Ph.D., College President
Silvia Rodriguez
Harold Stahl, Jr.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EQUITY
NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HCCC) SERVES ONE OF THE MOST ethnically and racially diverse areas of the United States; 87% of the HCCC student body is non-white. In establishing the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), HCCC added, expanded and enhanced programs, services, and academic offerings to further remove barriers to retention and completion; helped ensure access to more and greater opportunities for success in achieving academic goals and rewarding, sustainable careers; and, most importantly, deepened understanding and respect for all. PACDEI is embraced by the entire HCCC community — Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and community partners — and interwoven into every aspect of the College’s operations, particularly the College’s Achieving the Dream and “Hudson Helps” initiatives that are grounded in principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. HCCC is proud to be an agent of social and economic transformation for our students, and all residents of Hudson County.
MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MHCC) HAS BEEN ON A JOURNEY THE LAST five years to become a more equity-minded institution. As we emerge from the pandemic and reflect on the amazing work the college has accomplished, it recognizes how important equity is as central value at MHCC. Equity at MHCC is a two-pronged concept. The college seeks to provide what each individual within its community needs; and simultaneously, it seeks to create systems of equity to promote fairness and justice. This requires the college to imagine a future where all people across the spectrum of difference can find success at MHCC and do the continuous work to ensure this future vision is realized. The college aligns its systems, policies, practices, and resource allocations with strategic intent to advance equity. As MHCC continues to move forward with this work, the college acknowledges that equity is a journey, not a destination.
ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS SERVED BY TWO BOARDS CHARGED WITH THE
guidance, oversight, and fundraising for the college and collaborate on major student success initiatives.
The college is located in metropolitan Atlanta, serving the City of Atlanta, Fulton and Clayton Counties.
Student demographics reflect a student population that is 93 percent Black, African American, Latino and Hispanic, and approximately 80 percent of all students receive Pell grants. The college offers more than 100 credit programs of study, and students enroll in nontraditional programs, including men enrolled in nursing and early education, and women, in the skilled trades and aviation. The Center for Workforce Innovation and the Wheels of Equity Campaign are two initiatives developed and supported by the Boards to foster equity across campus and in the community.
Austin Community College District is honored to be recognized with the 2021 ACCT Equity Award.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

ACC believes deeply in equity for everyone and strives to expand access to opportunity, improve student outcomes, and transform lives.

austincc.edu

WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF CHANCELLOR RHODES AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Austin Community College District (ACCD) has become laser focused on closing equity gaps and advancing student success throughout the District. ACCD has multiple centers and student cohorts to build community for minority populations, such as the African American Cultural Center, the Latino/Latin American Studies Center (El Centro), the Ascender program, and the Black Representation of Achievement through Student Support (BRASS) program. ACCD is also establishing another center for Asian American and Pacific Islanders. With the social unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd in 2020 and the City of Austin’s debate around restructuring funding for emergency response, the ACCD Board called for a comprehensive review of the ACCD Police Department’s General Orders manual. Additionally, in 2019 the Board updated its policy on sexual discrimination and harassment to include protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
AWARDEES

CENTRAL REGION
—
**David H. Devier**  
Glen Oaks Community College, MICHIGAN

NORTHEAST REGION
—
**Murray K. Hoy**  
Wor-Wic Community College, MARYLAND

PACIFIC REGION
—
**Lisa B. Rhine**  
Yavapai College, ARIZONA

SOUTHERN REGION
—
**Monty E. Sullivan**  
Louisiana Community & Technical College System, LOUISIANA

WESTERN REGION
—
**Juan E. Mejia**  
Tyler Junior College, TEXAS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2021 Regional Chief Executive Officer Awardees and

Nominees for the 2021 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.
DAVID H. DEVIER HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT of Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC) in Centreville, Michigan for over seven years. He came to GOCC after completing 37 years in Ohio higher education in several leadership positions. During his very successful tenure, the college has seen significant enrollment growth, including creating the most successful dual-enrollment program in Michigan, new program development, successful accreditation review, conceiving of and building a 106-bed housing facility, significant renovation of the fifty-plus-year-old original facility, development of meaningful partnerships with K-12, business and industry, and regional/state governments, increased community engagement, celebrations of several college milestones, and much more. Throughout it all, he has remained laser focused helping to making GOCC the best small/rural community college possible and the Board, faculty and staff have supported this vision and the results are outstanding.
MURRAY K. HOY, WOR-WIC COMMUNITY College’s president for the past 21 years, graduated from community college before earning a bachelor’s degree, two master’s degrees, a doctorate and a law degree. During his 45-year community college career, he has held or directly supervised every administrative position. His experiences as student and administrator have instilled in him a strong conviction in the valuable role community colleges play in improving people’s lives and enhancing the economy; and unmatched knowledge of community college operations. His dynamic leadership and passion for community colleges have led to countless speaking engagements, appointments to prestigious boards and legislative committees, and many awards and honors. Hoy solicits and values frequent input from students, employees, board members and community leaders to identify strengths and challenges, gather perspectives, and identify best practices from which to model innovative programs and services that address educational and workforce needs within the area.
LISA B. RHINE, THE TENTH PRESIDENT of Yavapai College, has over 32 years of leadership experience in colleges and universities in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and Arizona. Rhine, a first-generation college student, is committed to ensuring college access and support to those for whom opportunities may have been historically limited or denied. Throughout her career, Rhine has served on numerous regional economic development boards and national commissions including service on the Commission for Diversity, Inclusion & Equity for the American Association of Community Colleges. As a member of the Inaugural class of Aspen Presidential Fellows, Rhine is committed to the moral imperative to improve student lives by leveraging the capacity of our colleges to improve learning, access, equity and labor market outcomes. She was recently selected to serve a three-year term (2021-2023) on the Aspen Presidential Fellows Inaugural Alumni Advisory Council.
WITH OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN higher education, Monty E. Sullivan is a respected leader in education and workforce development. Since 2014, he has led the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) in serving an average of 132,000 students annually. During his tenure, LCTCS colleges increased annual graduates from 19,000 to 33,428 with average annual earnings increasing from $723M to $1.58B. He is a visionary leader who continues to keep the focus on students across the state of Louisiana as well as meeting the workforce needs of business and industry. With his focus keenly on the safety and wellbeing of students and employees, Sullivan has led the system through the pandemic, multiple years of budget crisis, and no less than eight natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods and ice storms. His steady leadership has positioned the system as one of the most productive and fastest growing in the nation.
Juan E. Mejia has an unwavering commitment to student and community success. He enthusiastically promotes the value of community college education and is an innovator in advancing the programs and standards in community colleges. Mejia actively serves on numerous committees and with organizations that support two-year postsecondary education.

Mejia's genuine care and concern for students, employees, trustees and the entire college community is evident in the words and actions he uses to celebrate others. He is very well respected in the region and throughout the state, and has been awarded many honors for his leadership, vision, compassion and service.

Mejia is a courageous and empowering leader who desires that all students and employees achieve their full potential.

Dr. Mejia consistently demonstrates TJC's core values of unity, caring, integrity, empowering and excellence.
AWARDEES

CENTRAL REGION

Kenneth Walz
Madison Area Technical College, WISCONSIN

PACIFIC REGION

Mays Imad
Pima County Community College District, ARIZONA

NORTHEAST REGION

Debonair Oates-Primus
Community College of Philadelphia, PENNSYLVANIA

SOUTHERN REGION

Eric Goff
Midlands Technical College, SOUTH CAROLINA

FACULTY MEMBER

2021 Regional Faculty Member Awardees

and

Nominees for the 2021 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.
KENNETH WALZ EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT and purpose of the William H. Meardy Faculty Award through his demonstrated excellence as a chemistry and engineering instructor, a nationally recognized scientist, and a committed community member.

As a teacher, Walz encourages his students to be innovative in their thinking and in their development of solutions, whether they be undergraduates or college and high school teachers training to teach in Renewable Energy. His excitement for science is infectious, his reputation for Renewable Energy education is nationally recognized, and his work in his communities is profound. He inspires creativity and excellence and is a role model and a valued mentor.

Walz is a sought-after expert consultant, presenter, board member, and collaborator whose excellence promotes the community college movement.
Dr. Debonair Oates-Primus, Ph.D., has enacted significant changes at the College in a short amount of time, bringing her expertise in diversity, equity and inclusion to improve the educational experiences of our students, and showing faculty and staff how to better serve students. From creating inclusive hiring policies to mentoring faculty from underrepresented groups for full-time careers in academia, she has implemented initiatives benefiting the entire College community. With a teaching philosophy informed by the lived experiences and socioeconomic realities of students and the structural origins that have produced their circumstances, she creates an inclusive environment in her classroom where students are encouraged to bring their full selves and to speak their truths. Course content intentionally urges students to question everything, including the institutional systems that produce privilege and disadvantage, the incomplete historical narratives they have been taught as truths, and the ways media representations shape perceptions and cultural attitudes.

Community College of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Debonair Oates-Primus

Community College of Philadelphia

NORTHEAST REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Congratulations on this incredible achievement!
MAYS IMAD epitomizes the educator who constantly goes beyond the call of duty to engage students and fellow faculty and to connect with the community. Her professional qualifications as a community college professor are exceptional. She is engaged in research and pedagogical training. In addition to her formal training in philosophy and neuroscience, she has over ten years of science research experience and over twelve years of teaching experience at various levels, from undergraduate to medical school. She was a driving force in the creation of Pima College’s Teaching and Learning Center. This was a critical resource, and a source of support for faculty during the shift to virtual learning, and has been a catalyst to changing the conversation about what happens in the classrooms. She performs her faculty duties with high cultural and emotional sensitivity to the needs of students and coworkers. She is a champion of antiracist education and social justice.
ERIC GOFF IS A BIOLOGY INSTRUCTOR AND the assistant Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) director at Midlands Technical College (MTC). He has a background in educational technology and research that helped MTC quickly move to virtual instruction during the pandemic in spring 2020. He transitioned his courses very smoothly and volunteered to assist others in the process. As an instructor, Goff helps students understand and retain complex material and makes sure he is available to help them when needed. As MTC’s assistant QEP director, he helped the college develop its QEP titled M.O.R.E. — Maximizing Online Readiness and Excellence: M.O.R.E. helps students prepare for online classes, and though it was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is serving the college well with the increased interest in online and virtual courses. Goff’s leadership, expertise, and teaching abilities make him worthy of recognition as the ACCT Southern Region Faculty Member Award. 

On behalf of Midlands Technical College, we proudly congratulate you. Thank you for your dedication, expertise, and exceptional service to the MTC community and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS, ERIC!
AWARDEES

CENTRAL REGION

Rebecca McNulty
Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College, KENTUCKY

NORTHEAST REGION

Cynthia Gruskos
Brookdale Community College, NEW JERSEY

PACIFIC REGION

Margaret Lamb
San Diego Community College District, CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN REGION

Sara Landreneau Kleinpeter
Louisiana Community & Technical College System, LOUISIANA

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER

2021 Regional Professional Board Staff Member Awardees

and

Nominees for the 2021 Association Professional Board Staff Member Award

The Professional Board Staff Member Award is presented to a board staff member in recognition of exemplary service to a board.
SOUTHCENTRAL KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College congratulates Becky McNulty, Executive Administrative Assistant for the Office of the President at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College. Becky was recently recognized by The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) with the 2021 ACCT Central Regional Professional Board Staff Member (PBSM) Award.

Congratulations to Becky for this incredible national recognition and well deserved honor! We appreciate all that she does to support SKYCTC & our Board of Directors.

REBECCA "BECKY" MCNULTY, EXECUTIVE
Administrative Assistant for Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC), has dedicated her life and career to unselfishly serving others. From serving her country in the Army to serving students, faculty, board members and the south-central Kentucky community through her work at SKYCTC, McNulty quietly goes above and beyond her job description. She serves as a gatekeeper and problem solver to ensure that the President and the Board of Directors are successful in achieving their goals. She assists college faculty on their pathway to promotion. In her daily work, she is detail oriented, helpful, efficient, provides a high level of discretion and is a savvy multi-tasker. She emulates the SKYCTC Culture of Caring in all that she does. McNulty is more than an administrative assistant; she is an integral part of the College.

PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER
CENTRAL REGION AWARD RECIPIENT

Becky McNulty
Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College
KENTUCKY
IN SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE AND THE Board, Cynthia Gruskos is a consummate professional. She expertly monitors the Leadership Team’s progress on goals and manages all operational matters of the President’s Office. In assisting the Trustees, Gruskos’ attention to detail ensures that all events run efficiently. She is generous with her time, prompt in responding to questions and resolving problems, passionate in her advocacy, and steadfast in ensuring that all Trustees are well prepared for meetings. She is patient and cheerful no matter what problems are brought to her, and her valuable insights always produce thoughtful, creative solutions. Gruskos has assisted the Board in successfully navigating extraordinary experiences. Her board says that Gruskos has made the board better and they are grateful to have her in their lives.

CYNTHIA GRUSKOS Brookdale Community College N E W J E R S E Y
IN 20 YEARS WORKING FULL-TIME FOR THE San Diego Community College District, Margaret Lamb has embodied the term “servant leader.” During her 10 years as the Executive Assistant, Lamb has empowered employees and colleagues, put the needs of employees first, and helped people develop and perform at the highest possible level. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lamb was tasked with determining the best way to hold remote Board meetings. This involved figuring out the logistics of the virtual meeting format while balancing legal requirements concerning public participation and questions of meeting security. Lamb ensured that the public had the means to submit comments, YouTube was properly connected to livestream, and that Board members had access to the appropriate technology and support before and during meetings. She communicated these changes and implemented training sessions for Board members, district participatory governance leaders, the district community, and the broader public in which the District operates.
SARA LANDRENEAU KLEINPETER is known as a servant leader and selfless giver. Her joyful spirit is a rare quality for someone who always knows how to get anything accomplished. She thrives off any challenge presented and does it with a smile that reassures you she’s going to take care of it. Her organizing and planning skills are “legendary” to those who work with her, and her ability to incorporate any last-minute challenges is refreshing. She can be found behind the scenes of anything happening at Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and always makes sure that the Board, System President, or co-workers are shown in a positive light. She takes joy in helping others in any situation. Her professionalism is unmatched and her value to the Board and LCTCS cannot be overstated. Her generous spirit is evident in anything she does, aids in her many successes, and enhances the way others regard her. She is enthusiastic about her role at LCTCS and even more so about the mission of the two-year college mission.
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The NC Association of Community College Trustees

Congratulations

2021 Southern Region Trustee Award Winner

George W. Little
Chairman, Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees

2021 Northeast Region Trustee Leadership Awardee
Victor Richel
Union County College

2021 Northeast Region Professional Board Staff Member Awardee
Cynthia Gruskos
Brookdale Community College

2021 Northeast Region Equity Award
Hudson County Community College
Wisconsin Trustees Congratulate

Dr. David Devier,
President of Glen Oaks Community College
for receiving the
ACCT Central Regional CEO Award.

Your commitment to equity inspires us all.
Congratulations to
Dr. Debonair Oates-Primus,
assistant professor of English
at the Community College
of Philadelphia,
on being honored with the 2021
Association of Community College Trustees
Northeast Region Faculty Member Award!
M. DALE ENSIGN TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS
2020: Lydia Santibañez, Temple College, TX
2019: Gladys Christensen, Central Arizona College, AZ
2018: Barbara Oilschlager, College of Lake County, IL
2017: Dan Altmayer, Highline College, WA
2016: Diane Gallagher, Highland Community College, IL

CHARLES KENNEDY EQUITY RECIPIENTS
2020: Illinois Central College, IL
2019: Harrisburg Area Community College, PA
2018: Howard Community College, MD
2017: Trident Technical College, SC
2016: College of Lake County, IL

MARIE Y. MARTIN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECIPIENTS
2020: Margaret M. McMenamin, Union County College, NJ
2019: William Serrata, El Paso Community College, TX
2018: Henry Shannon, Chaffey College, CA
2017: Lee Lambert, Pima County Community College District, AZ
2016: Jane Karas, Flathead Valley Community College, MT

WILLIAM H. MEARDY FACULTY MEMBER RECIPIENTS
2020: Latoya Reid, Tacoma Community College, WA
2019: Amelia Phillips, Highline College, WA
2018: Maria Alvarez, El Paso Community College, TX
2017: Matthew Lewis, San Jacinto College District, TX
2016: Liz Ann Báez Aguilar, Alame Colleges, TX

ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF MEMBER RECIPIENTS
2020: April Sandoval, Coconino Community College, AZ
2019: Karen Campbell, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, WI
2018: Trish Villines, North Arkansas College, AR
2017: Melanis Toles, Clark State Community College, OH
2016: Debbie Novak, Colorado Mountain College, CO

DAVID MATHIS
Chair, Mohawk Valley Community College, NY

JAMES COOKSEY
Chair-Elect, Moberly Area Community College, MO

ROSE BENAVIDEZ
Vice Chair, South Texas College, TX

JAY NARDINI
Secretary-Treasurer, Hawkeye Community College, IA

DAWN ERLANDSON
Immediate Past Chair, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, MN

WILLIAM KELLEY
Central Regional Chair, Harper College, IL

MARSHA SUGOS SMITH
Northcentral Regional Chair, Montgomery College, MD

GILBERT WONG
Pacific Regional Chair, Fordham-De Anza Community College District, CA

TAMELA CULLENS
Southeast Regional Chair, South Florida State College, FL

DAN MIMS
Western Regional Chair, San Jacinto College District, TX

DAN ALTMAYER
Highline College, WA

STEVEN ANDERSON
Northeast Community College, NE

YVONNE BARNES
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Chair, Trident Technical College, SC

JUDY CHEN HAGGERTY
Western Regional Chair, Mt. San Antonio College, CA

ED DALRYMPL
Central Piedmont Community College, NC

CAROL DEL CARLO
Mountain-Valleymount Community College, CA

LINDA WAH
Pasadena Area Community College District, CA

AMANDA HOWLAND
College of Lake County, IL

SHEILA IRELAND
Community College of Philadelphia, PA

JOHN LUKAS
LakeShore Technical College, WI

DIANE NORIEGA
Mt. Hood Community College, OR

SHEETAL RANJAN
Baypath Community College, NJ

BERNIE RHINERSON
San Diego Community College District, CA

PAST ASSOCIATION Awardees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021