

Chancellor Search Committee Candidates

Full-time Faculty Submissions

Name: Sara Cooper

Division/Department: STEM/Biology

Statement:

The search for the Chancellor comes at a critical moment for the Foothill DeAnza Community College district. As directed by our current Chancellor, we've embarked on a mission to "reimagine" our district and how it would best serve our community. We take on this reimagining in the midst of incredible societal change, pandemic woes, budget uncertainty and enrollment concerns. All of these challenges make it an incredibly exciting time to commit to changing our district for the better. Reimagining gives us an opportunity to think outside the box and redesign our district to strengthen our connections and truly and equitably serve our community. However, at the same time we are reimagining our district, we are also searching for the leader that will guide our change. We must look for a leader that will embody the direction we want to take so that they can guide us toward our vision of a stronger, more equitable district.

Since joining the Foothill College faculty in 2014, I have had the opportunity to serve in multiple roles in governance, Academic Senate, and the Faculty Association. This experience has given me a perspective on how the college and the district order their priorities, operate the colleges and, maybe most clearly, how faculty engage in discussion and decision making with the administrative leadership. I would like the opportunity to put that perspective to use by serving on the search committee for our next Chancellor. It is important to the district that we select a Chancellor who is committed to equity and access to all levels of education our colleges offer, including workforce, apprenticeship, and transfer programs. We need a Chancellor who will advocate for and listen to faculty voices at the decision-making table, and who will operate transparently to ensure the trust that is critical to the progress and change we are trying to make in our reimagining and redesign. Most importantly, we need someone with an open mind who can see the potential our district has if we can rethink about the roles of community colleges and their responsibilities to their students and surrounding communities with an equity centered, open mind and willingness to try new things.

I am excited at the opportunities ahead for FHDA. It is an exciting time to be looking for new leadership while also committing to change the status quo to better serve our students and strengthen our community. I would like to be part of the search committee so that I might advocate for a Chancellor that can guide us from reimagining what our district can be to truly living up to our potential. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: David Marasco

Division/Department: STEM/Physics

Statement:

This is a critical time in the history of our District. As we go through the Chancellor transition we are also faced with the fallout of the pandemic, continued enrollment struggles, a rebuilding of shared governance, and a further examination of how equity works and does not work at our colleges. I wish to help select the leader who will guide us to our shared future. I have been at Foothill for nearly two decades, and have spent roughly three-quarters of that time serving on the Academic Senate. During this time I've served on many committees, including the two that recently helped create Ethnic Studies. I have also served at the District level, working on the revised hiring policies, sitting on the Police Chief's Advisory Board, and have participated in several Vice-Chancellor searches. Outside of Foothill, I have held various roles in equity in physics bodies at the national level. In addition to my professional experience, I bring the perspective of an immigrant and a person of color to the table. I believe that these factors make me a strong candidate to serve on the Chancellor Search Committee.

Part-time Faculty Submissions

Name: Jeffrey Marinchak

Division/Department: STEM/ Computer Science

Statement:

I was a student at Foothill, 40 years ago. When I was a student, a kind tutor helped me to pass Calculus. 40 years later, I'm now both a student, taking Computer Science classes to refresh my technical skills and a I work as a Tutor in the STEM center as my way of paying it forward.

I believe that my role now as both a student and as a part time faculty person would prove to be a valuable addition to search committee team.

Jeff

Name: Robert Sandor

Division/Department: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Statement:

I can bring a corporate perspective after a career in tech. I also have developed a new certificate program at Foothill and my students are getting real jobs in real industries. I have a broad base of students from 16-70 representing a diversity of academic and professional pursuits of which I think Foothill might leverage going forward.

Name: Kay Thornton

Division/Department: Fine Arts/Media Studies

Statement:

I have worked at Foothill College in different aspects during my 25 years, from TEA to full time classified to part time faculty. In that time, I have served on both senates and on numerous committees. This includes a past hiring committee for Chancellor (that hired Linda Thor).

I think that it is important to have someone on the committee who can provide an array of experiences and perspectives, while being focused on finding a candidate who is best for the entire District.