

# Moraine Valley Community College

*Office of the President*

December 11, 2020

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal ([aroyal@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:aroyal@aacc.nche.edu))  
One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

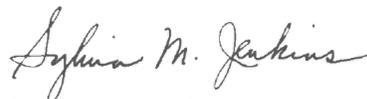
Dear Committee:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Gregory Thomas, President of Kennedy-King College in Chicago, Illinois, as a candidate for the AACC Board of Directors for 2021. Dr. Thomas and I became acquainted some years ago through the Lakin Institute and now work collaboratively as presidents of community colleges.

Dr. Thomas' accomplishments include leading Kennedy-King College through a successful Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation process in 2019; leading and coordinating a strategic planning process that resulted in his college's very first strategic plan; implementing his college's first Community Advisory Committee, which enhances the college's presence and involvement in the community; and securing significant grants to support workforce initiatives and private and corporate gifts to support student scholarships. Dr. Thomas led the establishment of Kennedy-King's first Information Technology hub to include high-demand IT degree and certificate programs and the build out of new IT innovation space. He also currently serves on the AACC Commission for Institutional Infrastructure & Transformation.

Dr. Thomas has a strong commitment to service in education and I have no doubt that he would be an excellent addition to the AACC Board.

Sincerely,



Sylvia M. Jenkins, Ph.D.  
President





Dr. Kimberly Beatty  
Chancellor

Blue River | Business & Technology | Longview | Maple Woods | Penn Valley

December 17, 2020

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal,  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Board Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for Dr. Gregory Thomas' candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors. I'm very confident that Dr. Thomas can make a significant contribution to the AACC Board given his dedication to the community college and his vast collection of professional community college experiences. He has served in leadership roles in academic affairs, student affairs, strategic enrollment management, institutional research, institutional effectiveness, strategic planning, assessment, and accreditation. Furthermore, Dr. Thomas has occupied senior-level positions in urban, suburban, and rural community colleges and held community college leadership roles in single campuses and large multi-campus systems. It is also of importance to acknowledge that Dr. Thomas was a first-generation community college student himself and this personal experience gives him unique perspective that can be of value to the AACC Board.

Dr. Thomas also currently serves on the AACC Commission for Institutional Infrastructure & Transformation and contributes on an assortment of boards in his local community. He has been very active in AACC for years and credits AACC for assisting him in his professional growth throughout his career via the valuable information provided at the AACC Conferences and various AACC's leadership development initiatives. Given Dr. Thomas' vast and valuable collective community college experiences and his consistent commitment to the community college during his career, I'm extremely confident that he would be a tremendous addition to the AACC Board of Directors.

I had the pleasure of observing Dr. Thomas' leadership first hand as an HLC reviewer recently. His leadership as a fairly new president with an enrollment management plan has the potential to transform his campus. In fact, it was so good, I "borrowed" it! His interaction with his team and his chancellor let me know that he is highly respected as a professional and person.

Without hesitation, I highly recommend Dr. Thomas for the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Beatty', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kimberly Beatty  
Chancellor  
Metropolitan Community College

November 25, 2020

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal,  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Board Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Dr. Gregory Thomas for the AACC Board. Gregory has developed a distinguished career in higher education dedicated to community colleges resulting in his appointment to President of Kennedy-King College in Chicago, IL in 2018.

Gregory understands the unique challenges facing our students. As an African American first generation community college student the opportunity of open access education ignited his progression of academic and professional success. In 2014 Gregory and I attended the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership conducted by the President's Roundtable an affiliate of the National Council of African American Affairs. I knew then that his dedication, integrity, and experience made him a unique and honorable leader.

Gregory has routinely attended AACC conferences and conventions since 1998. He currently serves on the AACC Commission Institutional Infrastructure & Transformation while also serving on a variety of key boards in the greater Chicago area. The AACC membership will benefit greatly from the appointment of Dr. Gregory Thomas to serve on the board. Gregory's commitment, advocacy and passion for community colleges will make him an excellent addition to the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Merrill Irving, Jr., Ed.D.  
President