



December 30, 2020

Office of the President

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

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to provide deserving positive perspective for my colleague, Dr. Orinthia Montague, who is standing for the AACC Board of Directors. I have known Orinthia since she became President of Tompkins Cortland Community College in 2017.

New York is fortunate to have a strong and active organization of community college presidents and it is in this venue I have come to know and appreciate Orinthia. She is keenly engaged in the New York Community College Association of Presidents, lending her strong and salient voice, often in moments when others may not be brave enough. I have great respect and awe for the times when Orinthia has changed the course of a conversation toward justice for our students and other populations who don't have a seat at the proverbial table. While I would be pleased to serve with her in any capacity, I knew being co-named with her and a small number of other college and university presidents to Governor Andrew Cuomo's New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board this summer meant I'd have a rightly motivated and valiant companion.

While I know New York seems to have placed its fair share of directors on the AACC board as of late, permit me to offer that Orinthia represents a rural community college. Tompkins Cortland Community College is in Dryden, NY, equidistant from Binghamton and Syracuse, about an hour in either direction. Nevertheless, Orinthia has pushed an impressive array of initiatives forward in this challenging setting – from leading on micro-credentials to food pantries to all manner of campus support services, all with the student at the center. With AACC's growing focus on rural community colleges, Orinthia's experience and voice is of value.

I appreciate Dr. Orinthia Montague as a colleague in New York and I would appreciate sharing more time with her on the Board of AACC.

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Young
President

December 4, 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 sincerely express my support for Dr. Orinthia Montague's candidacy for the AACC Board. Orinthia has developed a reputable career in higher education dedicated to creating pathways for underserved populations for the last 20 years resulting in her 2017 appointment as President of Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, NY.

Orinthia has focused on strengthening the student experience and growing an array of campus support services. As President, Orinthia secured \$500,000 from a local hospital to expand their nursing program as well as \$1 million from a private donor to fund institutional support initiatives at the college. These funds assist with supporting classroom technology, student success measures and faculty development. The outcomes from these initiatives have been recognized within the State of New York (SUNY) system as best-practice measures.

I have known Orinthia as a colleague and friend since 2015. I have witnessed her successful rise to President. When Orinthia attended the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership in October 2016, I knew her persistence, grit and ability to empower others would make her a remarkable President. Orinthia has demonstrated leadership wrapped with excellent outcomes at the state and national level.

Orinthia has served on the Commission on Global Affairs and also the Commission on Rural Community Colleges with AACC. It is without reservation that I support Dr. Orinthia Montague's appointment to the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Merrill Irving, Jr., Ed.D.
President



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December 8, 2020

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Orinthia Montague for AACC Board Membership

Dear Committee:

It is without reservation that I provide this letter of recommendation for Dr. Orinthia Montague. We have worked together as colleagues within the State University of New York system (SUNY) for over three years, and I can always count on her for her measured and well-thought approach to challenges we face in the system. During the COVID crisis, many of our SUNY colleagues looked to Dr. Montague's balanced approach to problem solving, and utilized her as a thought-partner for challenges on our campuses. She has the ability to support colleagues while also providing perspectives that had not always been considered.

Dr. Montague is highly regarded nationally, having participated and served as an expert presenter on board relations, fundraising, and leadership. She is always on the cusp of the latest developments in higher education, and brings many of those conversations to professional settings. In addition to her professional strengths (of which there are many), I also am witness to her strong character. She operates with the highest caliber of ethical leadership and integrity in all of her encounters.

Personally, Dr. Montague has also been a resource for me as we are both presidents of color in non-diverse, rural parts of the state of New York. We have collaborated in several ways to bring about diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campuses, our communities as well as the SUNY System and again, I have found her perspective and approach to always be spot on. She is a valued and trusted colleague and friend.

Please feel free to contact me directly if I can provide more information regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ty A. Stone".

Ty A. Stone, PhD
President