



San Diego Community College District
Office of the Chancellor

December 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter as an endorsement and strong recommendation for Dr. Sunita Cooke to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Dr. Cooke currently serves as Superintendent/President of MiraCosta College in San Diego County, California. Prior to her service at MiraCosta, Sunita Cooke was President of Grossmont College in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. In both roles, she has distinguished herself as a strong and visionary leader who works well and effectively with governing boards and all constituencies.

Sunita Cooke is also active in California at the state level and is the recognized leader of the statewide effort in career-technical education, as part of the Strong Workforce initiative. She would bring this expertise to the AACC Board along with other benefits of her expertise and leadership.

As a former member of the AACC Board myself, I am confident that Dr. Sunita Cooke would be an excellent choice and I recommend her highly and enthusiastically for this position.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Constance M. Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Constance M. Carroll
Chancellor
San Diego Community College District



Chaffey College

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Office of the Superintendent/President

December 11, 2020

Dr. Angel M. Royal
Chief of Staff
American Association of Community Colleges
Via Email: amroyal@aacc.nche.edu

Dear Dr. Royal:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D., to serve as a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board. I have known Dr. Cooke for over 15 years. She is an accomplished CEO and colleague. Currently, Dr. Cooke is the superintendent/president of MiraCosta Community College District, a position she has held since 2015, and has been a recognized California community college CEO for 13 years. She started as a Biology/Biotechnology faculty member and has been an educator for over 25 years.

Dr. Cooke has made a major impact in every district she has ever worked. I know firsthand the time, energy and commitment needed to serve on the AACC Board because of my board service previously. Therefore, I recommend Dr. Cooke to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry D. Shannon".

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President



December 14, 2020

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
aroyal@aacc.nche.edu

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Sunny Cooke for AACC Board of Directors

Board of Trustees

District 1
Michael Stoma

District 2
Ernestine M. Pierce

District 3
Iesheia Ayers-Wilson

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District 7
Linda S. Good, J.D.

District 8
Mike Sullivan

District 9
Jim Cain, Ed.D.

Chancellor
Stephen C. Head, Ph.D.

Dear Committee Members:

Please accept this letter of support for Dr. Sunita Cooke, Superintendent/President of MiraCosta Community College District (CA) for the AACC Board of Directors.

Dr. Cooke is a long-time professional colleague that I have known since 1995 when she started as a faculty member at Lone Star College. She later became dean and then served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce (reporting to me) before becoming a president at Grossmont College (CA) in 2007. She assumed her current position in 2015.

Dr. Cooke is a nationally known leader in economic and workforce development. She developed the workforce development office at Lone Star College, one of the largest community colleges in the United States, and in 2015 chaired the California Statewide Task Force on Workforce and a Strong Economy. Throughout a highly successful career she has focused on student success, academic and workforce excellence and economic development for her communities.

Dr. Cooke is among the very best community leaders in the country. She's articulate, writes and speaks well, is always professional and represents all community colleges. Her commitment to the community college mission extends to her support of diversity, equity and inclusion and she has been recognized on numerous occasions for her role in promoting those objectives.

Her participation in AACC and previous membership on the Board is evidence of her interest and support of the organization. She would be an excellent member of the AACC Board, and I give her my highest recommendation.

Regards,

Stephen C. Head



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 10, 2020

American Association of Community Colleges
One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Committee on AACC Members and Directors,

It has been my pleasure to have worked with Dr. Sunita Cooke, a fellow community college president, since 2007 when we met at the American Association of Community Colleges' New Presidents session. We were seated together during the training and immediately became fast friends. We got to know each other well as we engaged in the sessions. Since that time, when I worked in a California community college, we have remained friends and worked through professional challenges and accomplishments together.

Dr. Cooke was part of a contingent of community college leaders who shared the community college mission and vision with colleagues and leaders in India in 2009. She and I have also participated in panel discussions and made two different presentations together at AACC annual conferences. We have also worked together in the Achieving the Dream network. We enjoy sharing our joys and challenges as we work to transform our institutions to enhance student success and eliminate equity gaps.

Dr. Cooke has been a leader in workforce development, both at the national and state level. She served as the chair of the Strong Workforce Taskforce in 2015, which resulted in regional sector strategies and an ongoing state investment of over \$200 million. She has also co-chaired the AACC Commission on Workforce Development for the past year and is a member of the AACC Apprenticeship Taskforce.

Most recently Dr. Cooke was recognized as the Pacific Region CEO of the year by the Association of Community College Trustees this year.

As a former AACC board member, I enthusiastically support Dr. Cooke's candidacy for the AACC board.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeRionne P. Pollard".

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.
President



Office of the President
One HACC Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-736-4100
www.hacc.edu

Dec. 11, 2020

Angel Royal, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff
American Association of Community Colleges
One DuPont Circle, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036-1176

Greetings, Dr. Royal.

I proudly nominate **Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D.**, superintendent/president of Mira Costa College (CA), for consideration to become an American Association of Community Colleges board member. Being a national thought leader in student success she would be an engaged and dedicated director whose contributions would be valued and appreciated as the board grapples with national 'student-related' issues.

Serving on numerous national committees with Dr. Cooke, I know firsthand how hard she works to create an environment that supports diversity in thought and innovation.

Wholeheartedly and without hesitation, I strongly recommend Dr. Cooke to you as a capable, committed and focused professional who would contribute strongly to the work of the board of directors. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 717-731-2337.

Sincerely,

John J. "Ski" Sygielski
President