



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

Board of Trustees

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Tonjua Williams to AACC Board of Directors

District 1
Michael Stoma

Dear Committee Members:

District 2
Ernestine M. Pierce

Please accept this letter in support of the candidacy of Dr. Tonjua Williams, President of St. Petersburg College (FL) to the Board of Directors of AACC.

District 3
Iesheia Ayers-Wilson

I have known and worked with Dr. Williams for over a decade in her various roles at St. Petersburg while in Student Services and since her presidency in 2017. Her background includes extensive experience in both student services and instruction. She has a strong sense of purpose and commitment to students, employees and the community and is one of those people who wants to make a difference in the world. I first met Dr. Williams when she brought a team from St. Petersburg College to Lone Star College to learn more about our extensive efforts in student success. As a measure of her leadership, she was selected to be the president of St. Petersburg with strong support from faculty and staff as an internal candidate.

District 4
Art Murillo

District 5
David A. Vogt

District 6
Myriam Saldívar

Dr. Williams is active in virtually every major local organization in her community, has held several leadership positions in the State of Florida, and has been very active in AACC initiatives and programs.

District 7
Linda S. Good, J.D.

She is a strong advocate for student success, academic excellence, economic development, diversity and equity.

District 8
Mike Sullivan

I believe she is one of the bright leaders of the future for community colleges. She is articulate, professional and has an infectious enthusiasm for her work and service. Dr. Williams is well balanced and serves as a role model for future community college leaders of all backgrounds as they move through their careers.

District 9
Jim Cain, Ed.D.

I strongly support her candidacy for the Board of AACC and know that she would bring great value to the organization.

Chancellor
Stephen C. Head, Ph.D.

Regards,

Stephen C. Head

December 3, 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 express support for Dr. Tonjua Williams's candidacy for the AACC Board. Tonjua has developed a notable career in higher education dedicated to open access institutions that advance diverse populations in the workforce. Tonjua's years of commitment to excellence in higher education was confirmed in her appointment to President of St. Petersburg College, Pinellas County, FL in 2017.

Tonjua has used her experiences to help champion the needs of underserved populations and transform communities with great need. Tonjua also serves on a variety of economic development boards, chambers and intergovernmental partnerships that support the state of Florida in statewide labor initiatives. She is a graduate of the Aspen Fellowship for Community College Excellence, the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women. Tonjua has a work history and professional portfolio exemplary for AACC Board appointment.

Tonjua has previously served on the Executive Committee for AACC's President Academy, the AACC Commission on Student Success and participated as a Coach for the AACC Guided Pathways. Dr. Tonjua Williams will make an outstanding addition to the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Merrill Irving, Jr., Ed.D.
President



PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

4200 Congress Avenue
Lake Worth, FL 33461

561.868-3501 Office
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December 15, 2020

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

Dear Chair Black and Committee Members:

It is with great pride and strong conviction that I recommend Dr. Tonjua Williams to become an Institutional Representative on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors. It is truly an honor to endorse Dr. Williams for this position, considering my personal knowledge of her incredible strengths and qualifications in this very complex and evolving field.

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Williams as a colleague and fellow president in the Florida College System for the past four years; however, her leadership and experience span over three decades. She is nationally recognized as an expert in emerging issues in community colleges and is frequently tapped as a speaker and presenter at national conferences. Dr. Williams was at the forefront of the conversation on guided pathways and engaged as an AACC Guided Pathways coach. She is currently leading the conversation as a Board member at the Florida Department of Education Student Success Center and the Florida Pathways Institute. She has provided strategic leadership and engagement with Achieving the Dream, the Jobs for the Future Policy Leadership Trust and also graduated in the inaugural class of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence.

Dr. Williams is heavily engaged in her local community. She understands that a community college president must not limit her service to the campus but must serve and provide leadership out in the local community. Dr. Williams has demonstrated her commitment to her community through her service with the Pinellas County Urban League, the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and the Pinellas County Economic Development Council. She has gained respect, not only from me, but also from our colleagues and peers because of her commitment to excellence, her vast years of quality educational experience, reliable competence, forward-thinking vision and immeasurable integrity.

Dr. Williams would be an ideal member of the Board of Directors for AACC because she understands every aspect of our colleges from application to graduation and the interconnectivity of the student with college faculty and staff. She began her career as a clerk at St. Petersburg College and rose to the position of president. Her unique perspective will be extremely beneficial as the Board addresses policy issues that impact colleges across the country.

Therefore, I recommend Dr. Tonjua Williams, without hesitation, and am confident in her ability to provide meaningful input and policy direction as an AACC Board member. She will do a remarkable job by demonstrating her keen, collaborative leadership skills while remaining compassionate, professional and keyed into the needs of the state college community.

Sincerely,

Ava L. Parker, J.D.
President