



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102

Office of the President

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

From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye
President, Essex County College

Date: November 10, 2022

I write this letter to recommend Dr. Michael A. Cioce to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

A long-term educator, Dr. Cioce understands the important role community colleges play in democratizing higher education through access, affordability, student engagement, and success. He is student-centered as well as mission-focused. His knowledge of community college administration, financial aid, academics, and full appreciation of the mission of providing access that leads to success for our students places him in an excellent position to immediately add value to the Board.

Dr. Cioce is the sixth President of Rowan College in Burlington County, New Jersey, where he has improved student service delivery and engagement through the introduction of a state-of-the-art Student Success Center committed to customer service.

I am available on short notice to respond to the Board's inquiry, if any, regarding this excellent colleague.

I wish the Board and Dr. Cioce my highest regards,

Augustine A. Boakye, Ph.D.

November 14, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
American Association of Community Colleges
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington DC 20036

Re: Letter of Support for Michael Cioce

To the Committee on Directors and Membership Services:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Michael Cioce, President of Rowan College at Burlington County in New Jersey, for five years. Dr. Cioce and I were appointed as president of our respective institutions around the same time. We serve together on the Presidents Council of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and have worked closely together on a number of initiatives, including a task force of community college presidents charged with developing a new funding formula for community colleges in New Jersey.

Dr. Cioce understands the challenges facing community colleges and the students we serve. He is laser-focused on issues related to access and affordability, support of the whole student, and student success, including success after earning an associate degree. While he is committed to improving access and outcomes for our students, Dr. Cioce operates in the realm of the practical and realistic, seeking to leverage partnerships in pursuit of our aspirations and lifting his voice on behalf of our students with federal, state, and local legislators. The new funding formula our task force developed was approved by our colleagues in the New Jersey community college sector and resulted in additional state funding for our sector in part because the formula included new metrics based on diversity and equity. A portion of the funding allocated to each New Jersey community college from the state appropriations for our sector reflects demonstrated improvement in outcomes for historically disadvantaged students. New Jersey's community colleges are laboratories for new initiatives in furtherance of our missions.

I enthusiastically support Michael Cioce's candidacy for a seat on the AACC Board of Directors. Michael would represent the strong leadership cadre here in New Jersey.

Sincerely,


Mark McCormick
President, Middlesex College

November 14, 2022

Dr. Angel M. Royal
Committee on Directors and Membership Services
American Association of Community Colleges
1 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Emailed to amroyal@aacc.nche.edu

Dear Dr. Royal:

It is again my privilege to submit a recommendation for a seat on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board on behalf of Dr. Michael Cioce, President of Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC), in New Jersey. I have known Dr. Cioce since his original appointment as interim president of RCBC and subsequently being named president in 2018. Very few can appreciate the complex, difficult, and delicate situation he inherited as president. His predecessor's abrupt departure amid serious allegations and innuendo, created significant factions within the college; taxed Board relationships; and strained relationships with County Freeholders (now Commissioners). President Cioce restored credibility, integrity and stability to RCBC.

RCBC has a unique alliance with Rowan University. In this relationship, he has worked to ensure that the former Burlington County College retains its identity and autonomy while allied with Rowan University. He and the faculty have worked to establish the articulations necessary to solidify the Rowan relationship. RCBC was the first to field the 3 + 1 program allowing students to pursue a third year of study in select programs on the RCBC campus at county college tuition rates. Dr. Cioce has been leading this initiative since its inception.

Rowan College at Burlington County has endured severe financial hardships for several years. Contrary to perception, Rowan University does not subsidize RCBC. A dearth of funds from County and State government unfairly victimized RCBC. In spite of fiscal challenges, President Cioce has maintained and improved the College's academic program.

President Cioce has been the leader among his peers as demonstrated by his active role assisting the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' presidents revamp our state funding model. He had the unenviable task of serving as spokesperson/advocate for the committee to change the formula. Amazingly, he gained unanimous support for this shift to a new formula. Truly a feat.

Dr. Cioce is a man of quality, integrity, and political acumen who will be an outstanding asset to the AACC Board. If you have any questions you would like to raise with me, please reach out.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Gorman, Ed.D.
President