



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 31, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services,
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
amroyal@aacc.nche.edu

Re: Letter in Support of Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia to the 2023 AACC Board of Directors

Dear AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services,

My name is Dr. Rolando Garcia, the 6th President of North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. NHCC is the only two-year college in Minnesota to receive the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Campus Center designation from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). NHCC is one of the thirty-three state colleges and universities that comprise the Minnesota State system. I assumed this role in July 2020, after serving as Broward College's Judson A. Samuels South Campus President for nearly five years.

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia, President of Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), to the AACC Board of Directors. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Beaton-Garcia during her 12-year career at Broward College in Florida. Dr. Beaton-Garcia is an intelligent and motivated leader. She is a community leader that is admired for her commitment to collaboration and community service. She has been involved in leading guided pathway implementations, championing transfer initiatives with university partners, advocating for workforce education, and working with a diverse team of faculty and staff to address issues of access and equity. Dr. Beaton-Garcia is a courageous leader at a difficult right time as the nation focuses on recovery and addressing important issues regarding workforce education.

Dr. Beaton-Garcia is a well-respected and admired leader. Her story of immigrant to college president is inspiring and worthy of a voice at the table as we discuss the future of higher education in the United States. Her positive and energetic leadership style will serve the AACC Board of Directors well. As an expert in both workforce education and transfer, she will be a strong advocate for the mission and work of both community and technical colleges. It is without hesitation that I strongly endorse Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia to serve on the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rolando Garcia'.

Dr. Rolando Garcia
President

Engaging students, changing lives

North Hennepin Community College

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