



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

November 14, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services,
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal,
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700,
Washington, DC 20036
Send via email to amroyal@aacc.nche.edu

Dear Committee on Directors and Membership Services:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. Rowena Tomaneng, President of San Jose City College, as a candidate for election to the 2023 AACC Board of Directors in the Affiliate Councils Member category.

I have known Dr. Tomaneng with her work with the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions or AANAPISI about a decade ago. She was then one of the champions for this newly designated minority serving institution category at US Department of Education. In addition, Dr. Tomaneng and I worked closely as active board member for the National Asian Pacific Islander Council, an affiliate council of AACC for which she currently serves as President. I commend her exemplary career path of increasing leadership and administrative roles in community colleges in the State of California and nationally. She brings an unwavering dedication to advocacy and advancing the mission of community colleges in transforming lives and communities.

Dr. Tomaneng continues to be a leader in shaping the educational landscape nationally. She has served on several commissions and boards, contributing to expanding the mission and goals of community colleges leading to the success of our students. She is a staunch supporter and advocate for our diverse student body to have higher education opportunities and she toils to reduce barriers for them. This orientation brings an important perspective for all of us who make policies that impact students.

As AACC continues to focus on making community colleges a vital contributor in the education and training of our citizens, Rowena's experience, commitment, and passion for our role in higher education would make her an active and participative member of the AACC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Solemsaas".

Rachel Solemsaas, Ed.D
Chancellor

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