



January 21, 2025

Ms. Tammy Reichart
American Association of Community Colleges

I am writing this letter supporting Dr. Lisa Avery, an AACC board of directors candidate. I have known Lisa for several years and can attest to her commitment and passion for the work of community colleges. Dr. Avery aims to make education and training accessible and affordable for all students, especially those underserved. She has held several leadership positions in community colleges, including Community Colleges of Spokane and Portland Community College, and now serves as president at Linn Benton CC (LBCC) in Albany, Oregon.

Education for all best describes her vision for the college. Lisa has expanded LBCC's strong career and technical (CTE) programs and built new partnerships in allied health by collaborating with local business and industry leaders. She has improved outreach to Oregon's growing Latinx community and led LBCC's successful bond campaign for a new agriculture education center. Her advocacy includes testimony to the Oregon State Legislature on the Community College Support Fund, Applied Baccalaureate Programs, the Community College Transfer Bill, and Capital Projects.

Dr. Avery is a former AACC board of directors member and a current executive committee member for the President's Academy. She knows and can aptly carry out the responsibilities required of the board. Lisa is committed to the community college movement and is a reliable source of information when advocating for our institutions. She is a leader of integrity who strives for excellence in all she does. She is knowledgeable, experienced, and a sure choice for the AACC board. Without reservation, I support her candidacy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karin Edwards,
President, Clark College



1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

40 West Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

232 East Second Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060

1776 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

908.709.7000

www.ucc.edu

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**Transforming Our
Community ...
One Student
at a Time**

Tammy Reichelt
American Association of Community Colleges
Attn: Board Committee on Directors and Membership Services
One DuPont Circle NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Dr. Lisa Avery

Dear Tammy Reichelt:

I would like to support the nomination of Dr. Lisa Avery to serve on the AACC Board. I have known President Avery for the about 10 years, first through interactions at various AACC and ACCT initiatives and most recently as a colleague Aspen Presidential Fellow. As a result of my contact with Dr. Avery, I feel very comfortable commenting on her collegiality, professional expertise, and commitment to student success.

Dr. Avery is an active and engaged President. She has helped to strengthen her own community college while being actively engaged regionally through service on the accreditation commission and nationally through her service in numerous national partnerships including the Presidents' Academy Executive Committee, NACCE, and the Higher Education Research Development Institute. Lisa's ability to build bridges and find common ground in difficult situations has been an invaluable resource to her both as a President in a divided community and as a community college leader on the national stage.

As President, Dr. Avery is a visionary, and courageous leader. She has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to students and student success, challenging faculty, staff, and students at Linn-Benton Community College to rededicate themselves to the institutional mission. Dr. Avery was selected to become a member of the inaugural Aspen Presidents' Fellowship. This selection is an indication of not only the great work she has already done, but also a confirmation of the potential that she has to continue her development as a transformational community college president. Dr. Avery's collegial style and outstanding communication skills have served her well. Her friendly and engaging style allows her to convey respect to diverse groups of people. Dr. Avery is a compassionate leader who is skilled at making difficult decisions. She tends to flourish when in a situation that requires strategic thinking and problem solving. I have had the pleasure of working with Lisa on PASI, HERDI, and as an Aspen Fellow. I am thoroughly impressed by her style and the work she has done to support student success and the post-completion agenda. I am proud to call her my colleague.

On a personal note, Lisa is a people person. She understands that *people* are the college's most valuable resource. I am confident that Dr. Lisa Avery will be a tremendous asset as a member of the AACC Board. I strongly support her nomination. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret M. McMenamin".

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin
President
UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ College
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

January 22, 2025

Dear AACC Voting Members,

It is my privilege to write this letter of support for Dr. Lisa Avery's election to the AACC Board of Directors. In my many interactions with Dr. Avery through AACC, I have been consistently impressed by her fierce intelligence, profound commitment to our mission, and her authenticity as a leader who cares deeply for our students and communities. Her desire to serve on the Board is not driven by personal ambition or status but by a deep commitment to making a meaningful impact at the national policy level—advancing equity, access, and student success across the nation's community colleges.

Dr. Avery's own journey as a first-generation college graduate and her exceptional career in higher education leadership highlight her dedication to transforming lives through education. As President of Linn-Benton Community College, her vision of "Education for All" has driven significant progress for rural and underserved communities. Under her leadership, the college has expanded workforce partnerships, enhanced outreach to Oregon's growing Latino/a/e community, and successfully championed a bond campaign for a new agriculture education center.

In addition to her local impact, Dr. Avery's contributions to the AACC and the national higher education community are equally remarkable. As a former member of the AACC Board and current Executive Committee member for the President's Academy, she has consistently demonstrated thoughtfulness and leadership in addressing the most pressing issues facing community colleges. Her involvement in student success initiatives like Rural Guided Pathways and Workforce Transformation underscores her innovative and action-oriented approach.

Dr. Avery's extensive experience—as an educator, administrator, and strategic partner—combined with her deep authenticity and sense of purpose, make her an ideal candidate for AACC leadership. I wholeheartedly support her election and am confident that she will make an indelible impact on shaping the future of our community colleges at the national level.

Sincerely,



Paula P. Pando, Ed.D.
President



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

Jan. 19, 2025

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

Greetings, Ms. Reichelt!

I nominate **LISA AVERY, Ph.D.**, president of Linn-Benton Community College (OR), for consideration to become an American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) board member.

Dr. Avery, a two-time community college president, a first-generation college graduate and former AACC board member, she has led Linn-Benton since 2020. Over the past several decades, Dr. Avery's contributions to the community college movement included teaching, authoring several successful external funding applications, supporting and encouraging international exchange, promoting study abroad and actively serving on numerous national, regional and local non-profit boards including Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, LGBT Presidents and National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, to name a few, make her an experienced and talented contributor to the board.

Having served with Dr. Avery on numerous boards over the past decade, I know firsthand how hard she works to create an environment that supports diversity in thought, partnership and improvement. Having spoken to numerous colleagues who know her, they regularly mention her integrity, determination and strong commitment to student success.

Without hesitation, I strongly recommend Dr. Avery to you as a capable, committed, and focused educational professional and highly esteemed leader who would contribute thoughtfully to the work of the board of directors and, ultimately, to the important work of 1,100 community colleges. If you have any further questions about this nomination, please contact me at 717-731-2337.

His contact information is as follows:

Lisa Avery, Ph.D.
President
Linn-Benton Community College
6500 Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321
averyl@linnbenton.edu

Sincerely,


John J. "Ski" Sygielski
President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

January 20, 2025

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter in support of Dr. Lisa Avery, President of Linn-Benton Community College, for election to the AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Avery's distinguished career and unwavering commitment to advancing community college education make her an outstanding candidate. Her active engagement, as described below, reflects a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing AACC and community colleges today.

Dr. Avery's leadership is marked by a profound dedication to the mission of community colleges. With her previous service on the AACC Board, her role on the President's Academy Summer Institute (PASI) Executive Committee, she has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the advancement of our sector and the students we serve. She was a member of the inaugural AACC Commission on Structured Pathways, and has chaired AACC's Commission on Public Policy, Advocacy and Advancement. Dr. Avery's other national service includes serving on the College Board's Community College Advisory Panel and on the Healthy Campus Advisory Council.

As President of Linn-Benton Community College, Dr. Avery has championed initiatives that expand access, foster equity, and enhance workforce development. Her focus on student success and community engagement has strengthened partnerships across Oregon and beyond. A proponent of strategic partnerships, Dr. Avery serves on numerous local/regional committees.

Dr. Avery's contributions extend to accreditation and institutional quality, serving as a Commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). In this capacity, she has upheld the standards of excellence essential to ensuring that institutions of higher education remain responsive to the needs of students and communities, and a focus on equity and success.

Her collaborative spirit, visionary leadership, and commitment to equity uniquely position Dr. Avery to contribute to the AACC Board. She exemplifies the principles of inclusion and excellence that drive our collective work. Therefore, it is my privilege to endorse Dr. Avery as a candidate for the AACC Board.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Schaffer, President
Past AACC Board Chair