

SOUTH CAMPUS

5301 Campus Drive • Fort Worth, Texas 76119-5926 • 817-515-4100

December 10, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Reichelt:

It is my pleasure to offer my strong support for Dr. Amy Diaz's candidacy for the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors. Although I too am a candidate in this election, I believe deeply in the importance of elevating outstanding leaders to national service, and Dr. Diaz is unquestionably one of those leaders.

While Dr. Diaz and I did not serve at GateWay Community College at the same time, my familiarity with GateWay and my longstanding involvement in the Maricopa Community Colleges district have given me tremendous respect for the leadership she has provided there. More directly, our professional relationship has been shaped through our shared service with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) and through AACC, where I have had multiple opportunities to observe her leadership, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the mission of community colleges.

Dr. Diaz leads with clarity of purpose, integrity, and an unwavering focus on student success and community impact. She brings a strategic mindset grounded in workforce alignment, entrepreneurial thinking, and innovation which are the combination of attributes needed on the AACC Board at this moment in our national landscape. Her ability to connect institutional vision with system-level strategy is one of her greatest strengths.

Equally important, Dr. Diaz is a collaborative leader. She listens carefully, builds trust quickly, and contributes in ways that elevate both people and outcomes. In national conversations, she brings credibility, humility, and a deep understanding of the realities facing community colleges across diverse communities.

AACC would greatly benefit from her voice, experience, and leadership on the Board of Directors. I offer my strongest endorsement of Dr. Amy Diaz and encourage your full consideration of her candidacy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Lufkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Lufkin" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Daniel Lufkin, President, Tarrant County College South Campus
Member, American Association of Community Colleges
Board Candidate



December 8, 2025

The American Association of Community Colleges
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 410,
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Dr. Amy Diaz

Dear AACC Members,

It is my pleasure to offer my strong support for Dr. Amy Diaz's candidacy for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Diaz over several years, beginning during my tenure as Chancellor at Pima Community College and continuing through our shared work on the Unmudl Futures Council. In every setting, she has distinguished herself as a thoughtful, future-focused, and deeply committed leader within the community college sector.

Dr. Diaz brings a rare combination of strategic clarity and operational excellence. During our time collaborating on the Unmudl Futures Council, she consistently elevated discussions with her ability to connect long-term vision to practical application. Her insights into workforce transformation, learner mobility, and institutional innovation have been invaluable to the national dialogue on the future of community colleges.

Since assuming my current role as Chancellor of Foothill-De Anza Community College District, I have continued to engage with Dr. Diaz through our mutual involvement in strategic foresight work, including efforts connected to the Institute for the Future (ITF), and through our shared commitment to advancing the ethical and effective use of artificial intelligence in education. Our overlapping participation in ASU+GSV and related national conversations has only further affirmed my respect for her leadership. She approaches emerging technologies not as trends to chase, but as tools to expand access and opportunity for the students and communities we serve.

Dr. Diaz is a leader who listens deeply, acts with integrity, and consistently centers on the mission of community colleges. She has a strong systems orientation, a collaborative spirit, and a clear dedication to lifting up the entire national network, not just her own institution in Phoenix. These qualities make her exceptionally well-suited to serve on the AACC Board of Directors.

I am confident that Dr. Diaz will bring meaningful contributions, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to student success to the Board. I offer my full endorsement of her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Lee D Lambert

Lee Dominic Lambert, J.D.
Chancellor and CEO
Foothill-De Anza Community College District

December 8, 2025

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

Dear AACC Members,

It is my pleasure to offer my full support for Dr. Amy Diaz as a candidate for the AACC Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Diaz for the past nine years—first during my tenure as President of GateWay Community College, and now in my role as Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District, where she serves as President of GateWay.

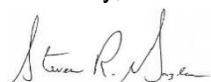
Throughout our many years of shared leadership, I have observed Dr. Diaz consistently demonstrates the qualities that define an exceptional community college leader: deep commitment to student success, steady and principled decision-making, and a genuine dedication to advancing opportunities for the diverse communities we serve. Her ability to navigate complex institutional landscapes with clarity and purpose has been invaluable to the work of our district.

In her role as President, Dr. Diaz leads with a blend of strategic vision and operational discipline. She is equally skilled at setting direction, mobilizing teams, and ensuring accountability for results. Her leadership has strengthened workforce partnerships, improved internal processes, and cultivated a culture centered firmly on student belonging and achievement. These strengths reflect not only her professional expertise but also her authentic passion for the community college mission.

Because I see her work regularly and across various dimensions including but limited to districtwide initiatives, system leadership, crisis response, innovation efforts, and collaborative governance, I can say with confidence that Dr. Diaz brings both the experience and the temperament needed to contribute meaningfully to the AACC Board. She is thoughtful, solutions-oriented, and well-respected by colleagues at all levels.

I believe Dr. Diaz would be an exceptional addition to the AACC Board of Directors, and I strongly recommend her candidacy.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Gonzales, Ed.D.

Chancellor, Maricopa County Community College District



Where futures beginsm

December 2, 2025

Dear AACC Members,

It is my pleasure to offer my full support for Dr. Amy Diaz's nomination to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Diaz through two significant national leadership platforms, the Aspen Rising Presidential Fellowship and the NACCE Board of Directors. I have seen firsthand the integrity, clarity of purpose, and deep commitment she brings to advancing community colleges.

As a fellow in the Aspen Rising Presidential Fellowship program, Dr. Diaz engaged in rigorous learning that required strategic thinking and a relentless focus on student success. Throughout the fellowship, Dr. Diaz distinguished herself as a reflective and forward-thinking leader who asks the right questions and grounds decisions in what is best for students and communities.

Additionally, our service together on the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Board has allowed me to observe Dr. Diaz's leadership in a national governance setting. She is a thoughtful contributor who not only understands the landscape of community colleges but also advocates for innovation, partnership, and impact. Her perspective is shaped by experience leading at GateWay Community College in Phoenix, yet she remains open and committed to learning from colleagues across the country. In NACCE board discussions, Dr. Diaz brings a focus on purpose, mission and entrepreneurial mindset, all qualities essential for the AACC Board.

Beyond her professional competence, Dr. Diaz brings a grounded, student-centered focus to the leadership spaces she occupies. She leads with empathy and courage, navigates complexity with grace, and consistently models the values our sector needs at the national level.

For these reasons, I am confident that Dr. Diaz would be an exceptional addition to the AACC Board of Directors. Her voice, leadership, and commitment to advancing the community college mission will strengthen AACC's work at a critical moment for our field.

Thank you for your consideration of her candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Baston".

Michael A. Baston, J.D., Ed.D.
President, Cuyahoga Community College

Office of the President

District Administrative Offices | 700 Carnegie Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878
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Cuyahoga Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

December 4, 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. Amy Diaz, President of GateWay Community College, for election to the AACC Board of Directors. Having served previously as AACC Board Chair and worked alongside Dr. Diaz on the Board of the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), I can state unequivocally that she is exceptionally prepared for the strategic, systems-level responsibility that service on the AACC Board demands.

Dr. Diaz is a thoughtful, future-focused, and values-driven leader whose work demonstrates a deep understanding of the intersection between policy, practice, and advocacy. Her service on the NACCE Board, her selection as an Aspen Presidential Fellow, her engagement as an AACC Commission Member, and her active participation on the national stage, reflect a president who not only stays connected to the conversation but consistently advances it. She is a trusted and respected voice - one that brings clarity, balance, and purpose to discussions about the future of community colleges.

Dr. Diaz brings a strong grasp of fiduciary responsibility, policy governance, and presidential accountability, all of which are essential for effective AACC Board service. She is that rare leader who can pair entrepreneurial thinking with thoughtful stewardship. From my direct experience serving with her on the NACCE Board, I have been consistently impressed by Dr. Diaz's preparation, strategic mindset, and ability to synthesize diverse perspectives into shared direction. She is a strong listener, a consensus builder, and a courageous decision-maker who leads with humility and authenticity.

In short, Dr. Diaz is ready to serve from day one. She brings not only deep experience and national credibility but also the collaborative spirit and ethical grounding that strengthens and elevates board governance. AACC, and the more than 1,000 colleges it represents, would benefit from her clear vision, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to student and community success.

It is my privilege to strongly endorse Dr. Amy Diaz for the AACC Board of Directors. She will be an exceptional colleague and a strategic asset to the Board's long-term work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Schaffer, President
Past AACC Board Chair