



December 19, 2025

Selection Committee  
American Association of Community Colleges  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Dr. Mike Muñoz, Superintendent-President of Long Beach City College (LBCC), for service on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors. As fellow CEOs in the California Community Colleges system, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand Dr. Muñoz's exceptional leadership, his influence across our system, and his unwavering commitment to advancing equitable student outcomes. He is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic and forward-thinking leaders in our state, and increasingly, across the nation.

Dr. Muñoz's impact extends well beyond his college. He has been recognized by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the Most Influential People in Education, and his work has garnered national attention, including coverage in *The Washington Post* for LBCC's Safe Parking Program. This initiative exemplifies his ability to innovate in response to student needs through thoughtful partnerships and resourceful, community-centered solutions.

Under his leadership, LBCC has earned significant national recognition, including receiving the AACC Equity Award this year. This honor reflects the college's measurable progress in student achievement, institutional effectiveness, and the implementation of equity-minded practices at scale across a large and multifaceted institution.

Dr. Muñoz is equally respected for his regional leadership. Through partnerships with Space Beach, the Rotary Club, and numerous civic and industry organizations, he has strengthened workforce pipelines, advanced regional economic development, and elevated the role of community colleges as essential, trusted community anchors. His service on the Memorial Hospital Board underscores his commitment to cross-sector governance and meaningful community engagement.

At the national level, Dr. Muñoz has demonstrated sustained leadership through his work with Excelencia in Education, where he has helped shape efforts that recognize and scale effective institutional practices nationwide. He also holds leadership roles with the Concilio, an AACC affiliate, and is a founder and board member of COLEGAS, a national network dedicated to leadership development and mentorship among Latino community college executives. His involvement in these organizations reflects a deep personal commitment to strengthening leadership pathways and supporting the next generation of community college leaders.



As a long-serving CEO in the largest higher education system in the country, Dr. Muñoz brings a sophisticated understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing community colleges today. His ability to lead complex institutions, cultivate strategic partnerships, and represent our mission with clarity and resolve would make him an exceptional addition to the AACC Board of Directors.

I am proud to offer my strongest recommendation for Dr. Mike Muñoz. I am confident that he will serve AACC and its member institutions with distinction and will continue to be a powerful voice for students, equity, and innovation within our sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Barnes".

Dr. Julianna Barnes  
Chancellor  
South Orange County Community College District



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President/CEO

December 17, 2025

Selection Committee  
American Association of Community Colleges  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Mike Muñoz, Superintendent/President of Long Beach City College, for service on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors. I have personally known Dr. Muñoz for over twenty years. Dr. Muñoz is a highly respected higher education leader whose work reflects strategic vision, operational excellence, and a sustained commitment to student success.

Dr. Muñoz has been recognized locally and nationally for his leadership and influence in higher education. He was recently named by the Los Angeles Times as one of the Most Influential People in Education, and his leadership at Long Beach City College has been featured in The Washington Post for the college's Safe Parking Program. This one-of-a-kind program addresses students' basic needs through innovative partnerships and responsible stewardship of institutional resources. This work exemplifies Dr. Muñoz's ability to align mission-driven innovation with sound governance and public accountability.

Under Dr. Muñoz's leadership, Long Beach City College has experienced significant momentum, including national recognition from the American Association of Community Colleges, which honored the college this year with the Equity Award. This distinction reflects Long Beach City College's measurable progress in student achievement, program effectiveness, and institutional practices designed to support a diverse student population at scale.

Dr. Muñoz has also played a critical role in advancing regional collaboration. His leadership and engagement with partners such as Space Beach, the Rotary, and other civic and industry organizations have strengthened workforce pathways, supported regional economic development, and positioned Long Beach City College as a trusted anchor institution in the greater Long Beach and Los Angeles County region. In addition, his service on the Long Beach Memorial Hospital Board reflects his commitment to cross-sector leadership and community-centered governance.

At the national level, Dr. Muñoz has contributed meaningfully to higher education leadership through his involvement with Excelencia in Education, where he serves as the inaugural President in Residence and supports efforts to elevate effective practices and leadership development across institutions serving large and diverse student populations. He also serves in a leadership capacity with the Concilio, an affiliate organization of the American Association of Community Colleges, further demonstrating his readiness to

contribute to the Association's strategic priorities and governance at the national level.

Dr. Muñoz brings to the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing community colleges today, informed by decades of executive leadership experience. His ability to lead complex institutions, build durable partnerships, and represent the community college mission with credibility and clarity would make him a valuable addition to the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors.

I offer my strongest recommendation for my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Mike Muñoz, for this important leadership role. I am confident he will serve the American Association of Community Colleges and its member institutions with distinction. In closing, if you have any questions, please contact me at [kcurry@compton.edu](mailto:kcurry@compton.edu) or by calling 310-900-1600, ext. 2000.

Sincerely,



Keith Curry, Ed.D.  
President/CEO