
2411 West 14th Street, Tempe, AZ. 85281 • T: 480.731.8100 • F: 480.731.8120 • www.maricopa.edu

December 29, 2025

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

To the AACC Board of Directors Selection Committee,

It is with the strongest enthusiasm that I recommend Dr. Clyne G. H. Namuo, President of Joliet Junior College, for service on the AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Namuo is a nationally respected community college leader whose career reflects an unwavering commitment to student success, equity centered leadership, innovation, and deeply embedded community engagement qualities that align seamlessly with the mission and values of AACC.

Since assuming the presidency of Joliet Junior College in July 2022, Dr. Namuo has demonstrated principled, strategic leadership grounded in shared governance and institutional effectiveness. Appointed following a national search, he has brought clarity of vision, a collaborative leadership style, and a deep understanding of the evolving role of community colleges. His commitment to first generation students is exemplified through the establishment of the Namuo Family Endowed Scholarship for First Generation Students, which was fully endowed well ahead of schedule and awarded to its first scholars in fall 2024, an initiative rooted in both personal experience and institutional mission.

Prior to JJC, Dr. Namuo served as Interim President of Phoenix College, where he led the development of a formal shared governance structure, launched the Phoenix College People's Project, and advanced an ambitious equity agenda. Earlier, as Vice President of Learning and Chief Academic Officer at South Mountain Community College, he partnered with internal and external stakeholders to create a comprehensive academic plan that resulted in transformative initiatives, including the system's premier Construction Trades Institute, immersive mediated classrooms, and expanded mobile technology adoption. His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic ensured academic continuity while maintaining a focus on access and student success.

Dr. Namuo's earlier service at Cochise College, as faculty member, department chair, and dean, provides him with a rare, comprehensive understanding of the community college enterprise from the classroom to the cabinet. His work with industry partners and foundations to revitalize residential construction programs through hands-on, community-based learning underscores his ability to align workforce development with regional economic needs.

Nationally, Dr. Namuo is a trusted voice in accreditation, governance, and equity. He serves as an active peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, is a member of the Institutional Actions Council, and chairs HLC's Diversity Committee, where he is advancing an equity-centered

framework for accreditation practices nationwide. Additionally, he is one of only 20 CEOs serving on the Advisory Committee of Presidents for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), a testament to his credibility and leadership among peers.

A scholar-practitioner, Dr. Namuo is a published author and frequent presenter at AACC, ACCT, and HLC conferences. His scholarship on community college strategy, fiscal constraint, and design thinking reflects both intellectual rigor and practical relevance. Just as importantly, his extensive civic engagement serving on economic development councils, nonprofit boards, and community organizations demonstrates a leadership philosophy rooted in service and partnership.

I am confident that his service on the AACC Board of Directors would be both impactful and exemplary.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Gonzales, Ed.D.
Chancellor, Maricopa County Community College District

Shari L. Olson, Ph.D.

President/Northland Community and Technical College

1101 Highway One East

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Shari.olson@northlandcollege.edu

218-688-0093

December 23, 2025

American Association of Community Colleges

Attn: AACC Board of Directors Selection Committee

One Dupont Circle, NW

Suite 410

Washington, DC 20036

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am honored to offer my strongest recommendation of Dr. Clyne G. H. Namuo for appointment as a Director for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Namuo is a visionary, equity-minded, and collaborative leader whose career reflects the highest ideals of the community college mission. His strategic insight, national service, and deep commitment to student success make him exceptionally well suited for this role.

As the 10th president of Joliet Junior College—the nation’s first public community college—Dr. Namuo has demonstrated remarkable leadership since assuming the role in July 2022. His presidency has been marked by strategic clarity, community engagement, and a personal commitment to first-generation students, exemplified by the creation and full endowment of the Namuo Family Endowed Scholarship for First Generation Students. This initiative reflects not only his values but also his ability to mobilize an entire college community around student-centered priorities.

My strongest insights into Dr. Namuo’s leadership come from our time working together at South Mountain Community College (SMCC), where he served as Vice President of Learning and Chief Academic Officer. At SMCC, as the president, I had the privilege of collaborating closely with him, and I came to know him as a trusted colleague and collaborator who consistently kept student success as his north star. His leadership was grounded in genuine partnership—he listened deeply, valued the expertise of others, and created an environment where innovation could flourish because people felt respected and heard.

One of the most transformative initiatives he led at SMCC was the development of the college's comprehensive academic plan. I witnessed firsthand how he brought together faculty, staff, and community partners to create a roadmap that was both ambitious and deeply responsive to the needs of South Phoenix. Under his leadership, the plan became a catalyst for meaningful change.

Dr. Namuo also championed the creation of the Construction Trades Institute, which quickly became the Maricopa system's premier trades program. I recall early planning meetings where he emphasized that the program must not only meet workforce demand but also expand opportunity for students who had historically been underserved. His ability to align industry partnerships, faculty expertise, and student support services was instrumental in bringing the program to life.

Additionally, he led the expansion of immersive, interactive, mediated classrooms across campus. His collaborative approach ensured that technology enhanced teaching rather than overshadowing it. This work proved especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, when his foresight and steady leadership helped SMCC transition academic operations smoothly during an unprecedented crisis.

Dr. Namuo's leadership extends well beyond campus boundaries. He is an active peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, a member of the Institutional Actions Council, and chair of HLC's Diversity Committee, where he is leading efforts to ensure all peer reviewers apply an equity lens to accreditation. He is also one of only twenty CEOs nationwide serving on the Advisory Committee of Presidents for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). His scholarly contributions—including publications on community college strategy, fiscal constraint, interim presidencies, and design thinking—demonstrate his ongoing commitment to advancing the field.

In every role he has held, Dr. Namuo has brought strategic vision, operational excellence, and a deep sense of purpose. He understands the challenges facing community colleges today—enrollment pressures, workforce alignment, equity gaps, and fiscal constraints—and he approaches each with creativity, data-informed decision-making, and an unwavering focus on students.

For these reasons, I offer my unequivocal endorsement of Dr. Clyne G. H. Namuo for appointment as a Director of the American Association of Community Colleges. His voice, experience, and leadership would be a tremendous asset to the AACC Board.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Shari L. Olson

President – Northland Community and Technical College