



PRESS RELEASE

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Contra Costa Community College District Announces Finalists for Associate Vice Chancellor, Educational Services

MARTINEZ, California – The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) has announced the selection of three finalists for the next Associate Vice Chancellor of Education Services. The finalists are Dr. Matthew Kritcher, Dr. Mandy Liang, and Dr. Tonia Teresh.

Public forums will be held in person in the Second Floor Board Room of the District Office, located at 500 Court St. in Martinez on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, beginning at 10:45 a.m. The public forums will last approximately one hour each, and are open to the community, students, faculty, and staff. A detailed public forum schedule and an online survey to provide feedback on the candidates can be accessed on the 4CD website at www.4cd.edu.

For those who are unable to join the public forums in person, links to the recordings will be made available on the 4CD website.



Dr. Kritscher has dedicated his entire career to serving diverse communities in public higher education in California Community Colleges and Universities, supporting student equity, inclusion, access, social justice, and anti-racism at every level of the institutions' organization. As an educational leader for three decades, including eleven years as dean in Bay Area Community Colleges and the ten years as a Vice President of Student Services at Chabot College, Dr. Kritscher is passionate about eliminating student equity gaps and providing support for students who are farthest from opportunity. Dr. Kritscher holds a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from San Francisco State University. He graduated from the first cohort of the university's inaugural doctoral program. He also holds masters and bachelor's degrees from California Polytechnic State University. Dr. Kritscher conducted dissertation research on "How peer mentors affect the persistence of community college students of color" as a participant researcher at his own institution to contribute to basic research on peer mentoring in community colleges, and in service to the students at Chabot College.

Dr. Kritscher served on the Governing Board for the Mid-Alameda County Consortium of Adult Education Programs and is President Emeritus of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Administrators' Association. He is also a President Emeritus of the statewide California Community Colleges Student Success and Support Program Professionals Association, known for having led the organization to increased student support resources and integration with Student Equity planning throughout the system. Dr. Kritscher has received numerous awards for his work with supporting student access, equity and success in public higher education including a Chancellor's Award, two Unity Awards, Striving Black Brothers Coalition Touched by an Angel and Dedicated Service Awards, and was recognized as an Educator of Excellence by the African American Regional Education Alliance for his regional work in strengthening pipelines for black students to enter and find belonging in higher education.

Dr. Kritscher has served as the Principal Investigator on numerous federal, state, and private grants, collaboratively directing millions of dollars in integrated projects toward institutionalization for student equity and success.

Dr. Kritscher and his wife have worked in public higher education in the bay area for over twenty years and have mentored youth and professionals alike in service to equitable education opportunities. In partnership with several non-profit organizations, they have supported low-income, first generation foster youth to attend and complete

college in community service. They love gardening, outdoor activities, art, and music, and are passionate about environmental sustainability as both a social justice and stewardship imperative.



Dr. Mandy Liang has 19 years of professional experience in the California Community Colleges system as an administrator, faculty leader and classified professional. Dr. Liang presently serves as the Dean of Student Success at City College of San Francisco (CCSF). Dr. Liang's commitment to student success, equity, and social justice in higher education is rooted in her personal experience as an immigrant and a first-generation college student who grew up impoverished. In the six (6) years of her management experience, she has provided leadership and administrative oversight for personnel, fiscal, reporting, operations, integrated planning, partnership building, program development, implementation, and evaluation for a wide cross-section of Student Affairs departments on the main campus and five (5) education centers supporting credit and noncredit students. She has led the Equitable Placement and Completion implementation and created the Completion Center to enhance student success and completion at CCSF. Areas within her responsibility include Counseling, Assessment, Transfer Center, Career Center, DSPS, EOPS/CalWORKS Counseling, City Dream Counseling, Athletic Counseling, Puente, Rising Scholars/New Directions, Juvenile Justice Program, Veterans Services, Completion Center, Asian Pacific American Student Success Program, Latinx Services Network, Umoja/African American Scholastic Program, TULAY Filipino American Student Success Program, Pacific Islander & Oceania Student Success Program, Metro Transfer Program, the Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students (HARTS) Program, Guardian Scholars, and the Bridge to Success Outreach Initiative. As a faculty leader, Dr. Liang served as the Academic Senate President, Accreditation Faculty Chair, and Student Learning Outcomes Coordinator at CCSF. To foster student success, Dr. Liang has worked as a counselor, instructor, International Students Association advisor, outreach representative, and a member on many college and statewide committees.

Dr. Liang also has experience in reviewing and recommending policies at the state level. She is the President of the California Community College Assessment Association. Dr. Liang's expertise in professional development and community college policies has led her to become a coach and core project team member for the IEPI Strategic Enrollment Management and a lead for IEPI Partnership Resource Teams

assisting other community colleges. Dr. Liang has also served as a member of ACCJC accreditation peer review teams. Dr. Liang received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management from Capella University, Master's Degree in Counseling from San Francisco State University, and Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of California, Davis.



Dr. Tonia Teresh (she/her/hers) is an equity-centered leader whose career spans over 20 years across varied public higher education environments. In her current role as Vice President of Student Services at Yuba College, Dr. Teresh is responsible for assessing, planning, and administering all programs and resources in the Division of Student Services, including Counseling, Enrollment Services, Financial Aid, Student Marketing and Engagement, EOPS, DSPS, MESA, TRIO, and Veterans Services. Under her leadership, the college reopened the shuttered food pantry and student health clinic, and implemented comprehensive basic needs supports including mental health services and student wellness programming.

Previously as Dean of Student Development and Matriculation at San Diego Miramar College, Dr. Teresh oversaw counseling and special programs and led innovative approaches to foster student success, including a Strong Workforce Program matriculation redesign project aligned with Guided Pathways. As Dean of Student Success and Equity at Barstow Community College, she and her team supported a 9,000 square mile service area through outreach, career, transfer, and academic success programs such as embedded tutoring and supplemental instruction. She has been responsible for the development and implementation of the Student Equity Plan at multiple colleges to increase access, retention, and completion for disproportionately impacted students. Across these roles she has also administered services at satellite campuses, military bases, and through virtual delivery.

Dr. Teresh previously worked in staff and management positions focused on enrollment and engagement. She served as Academic and Student Services Manager for Outreach/Relations with Schools, Assessment and Welcome Services at Diablo Valley College, where she implemented the college's Student Ambassador program and developed valuable K-12 relationships. Prior to joining the Contra Costa Community College District, she worked at CSU and UC campuses.

Dr. Teresh earned her Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Master of Arts in Educational Leadership at West Virginia University. She earned a Doctor of Education at Northeastern University, where her research focused on the professional development needs of college employees implementing student success initiatives. During doctoral studies, she interned in the US Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education.

As a first-generation student herself, Tonia is grateful for the guidance and encouragement she received from her undergraduate faculty, advisors, and mentors. This experience sparked her professional commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that enables all learners to meet their goals and where employees are engaged and motivated to do their best work.

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The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The 4CD serves 1.2 million residents, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. 4CD is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College with campuses in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon, and Los Medanos College with campuses in Pittsburg and Brentwood. The District headquarters is located in downtown Martinez. Each college is individually accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. For more information visit www.4cd.edu.

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