

Election Race: Oakland Community College Board

Three will be elected to 6-year terms - The election is Monday, June 8


ELECTION Candidates

QUESTION 1 Why are you running and what contribution can you make?

QUESTION 2 With limited funds, how do you decide between a program for students in a 2-year associate degree program leading directly to a career or on one for students who will go on to a 4-year university?

QUESTION 3 Do the OCC faculty and course offerings reflect society's growing diversity?

KAREN K. APOLLONI




Hometown: Farmington Hills, Age: 35
 Occupation: Medical technology, laboratory supervisor at Madison Community Hospital
 Education: BS in medical technology, Wayne State University, candidate for masters in health care administration, Central Michigan University
 Community activities: Birmingham-Bloomfield Area Association
 Family: Married, two stepchildren

I believe I can contribute not only experience as a student and instructor, but also my special expertise in health care, with which I can help OCC maintain and improve its health care programs. Also, I bring with me an open mind and, I hope, a fresh approach to dealing with the issues and problems OCC will face in the next six years.

There is more of a demand for career path programs. Less than 40 percent of OCC students plan to transfer to four-year colleges. The career path program is the more practical choice in the current economic climate. Funding the career path program will give OCC students more choices, not fewer. The pre-university program is a duplication of programs that are also available at four-year schools.

OCC has recently established a Multicultural Committee. That is an excellent first step. We must see to it that awareness of, and education about, our many cultures is addressed in a continuing fashion throughout the OCC community — among students, faculty and staff. I realize that many OCC students are an campus part-time — but this should still be done. Where else will these students be exposed to (this) information and education.

PAUL A. BAILEY




Hometown: Oakland Township, Age: 43
 Occupation: Attorney
 Education: BA, Central Michigan University, JD, Detroit College of Law
 Community activities: Democratic precinct delegate, trustee, Lake Orion Education Foundation
 Family: Married, two children

I am familiar with OCC and its programs because I have taught classes at OCC on a part-time basis. I hope that my strong educational background and my expertise in the legal field will allow me to make a contribution to the board.

A tough decision, but I would probably vote to spend on a program for students who will continue on at a four-year university. Two-year career programs are definitely important, but in the future our students probably need more education, not less, to compete in a world economy. On the whole, I think that a student with a four-year degree from a college or university will, in most cases, have an advantage over a student with a two-year degree.

I feel OCC course offerings do reflect society's growing diversity. Just looking at the four major categories of career programs gives one a good idea: business and office, health science, industrial and technology and public service. I am very impressed with the fields of study available under health science. OCC is also strong in technology programs.

JEAN C. BENZING




Hometown: Clarkston, Age: 53
 Occupation: Human services
 Education: AD in aerospace technology, Oakland Community College (magnum laudis), BA in urban studies, Central Michigan University, MA in education, Central Michigan University
 Community activities: Independence Township Planning Commission, secretary, Independence Township Safety Patrol Force
 Family: Married, two children

I am very much concerned with the high unemployment, the citizens' limited resources for acquiring appropriate education or retraining and the need for developing strategies for attracting new and expanded manufacturing and industry, as well as development of small business. Being an OCC graduate, with urban studies and administration education and experience in program planning, I will be an asset to the future growth of OCC.

I would support funding for a two-year associate's degree. Based on the economy, shorter time frames are needed to provide a student with a vocation which will lead to employment. I believe the greatest need in Oakland County is a two-year associate's degree program that can lead to a career.

I believe that the OCC faculty and course offerings reflect society's growing diversity in that they offer course work from computer technology, to robotics/automated systems technology. However, it is predicted there will be hundreds of new jobs developed in the next decade and OCC is in the key position to develop curriculum that will provide the appropriate technological training.

D'ARCY A. GONZALES




Hometown: Clarkston, Age: 42
 Occupation: Second vice president and district manager, ABB Ball, M. A.
 Education: BBA, Siena Heights College, classes, OCC, Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin
 Community activities: Chair, United Way of Oakland County committee, first vice president, Post-10 Lions Club, treasurer, Orion Oxford Soccer League, treasurer, Breakfast Operators Club of Waterford, former chair, Industrial Development Job Retention Committee of Waterford, member, D.A.R.E. Committee of Waterford, charter president, Lions Club of Clarkston, former vice president, St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarkston
 Family: Married, two children

Being a student at OCC from 1984 to 1989, I can relate to the needs of today's students — those with a family who are working and attending school. Having over 20 years' experience in managing and developing individuals in the business world has broadened my abilities to make sound decisions. With my ties to the business and financial community, I feel that I can complement the board.

This is a difficult scenario; however, I would tend to vote for spending funds on the two-year associate's degree which would help place the individual in the work force. This would help the economy.

In viewing the college catalog, a number of cultural courses are offered. There is no way of knowing the diversity of the faculty without meeting each one of them.

LAURENCE R. IRMERMAN




Hometown: Bloomfield Hills, Age: 44
 Occupation: Attorney
 Education: BA, Washburn University (St. Louis), MA, Wayne State University, M.P.H., University of Michigan, law degree, University of Central
 Community activities: Treasurer, Con-Bozo PMA (presidential and community programs for young), president, American Jewish Committee, Detroit chapter board member, Tempa-Kol Ami, committee chair, Michigan district, District International
 Family: Married

Community colleges play a central role in higher education today — from job training/retraining, to providing a lower-cost alternative for the first two years of college, to offering non-credit enrichment courses to the general community. I have a strong background in higher education and an equally strong and long-term interest in how institutions of higher education are governed. I believe that I can make a contribution toward directing OCC into the next century.

Most students who attend OCC do so to improve their employment skills and to gain new ones. In a "tight" budget, I would place first priority on continuation of these career building programs. Nonetheless, the liberal arts cannot be ignored and must be sustained. The majority of degrees granted are to liberal arts graduates and OCC's accreditation depends upon a robust liberal arts program.

Diversity, while a worthy aim, should not be a goal in and of itself. The OCC humanities program, however, should reflect the full range of cultural diversity. OCC must be sensitive to the special educational needs of ethnic and religious minorities, must be collobrith with respect to student admissions and faculty recruitment and must consider any unique needs of groups in this county in designing its services.

RICHARD T. LINDGREN




Hometown: Bloomfield Hills, Age: 65
 Occupation: President, Lori Corp
 Education: BBA, University of Minnesota, MBA, Harvard Graduate School of Business
 Community activities: Director, University of Minnesota Alumni Assoc., director, Harvard Business School Club of Detroit, director, ABALE, director, American Swedish Council, trustee, Summit College, chair, Oakland Community College Foundation, director, Reserve Board (Detroit branch)
 Family: Married, two children

I have been active at OCC for a number of years. First, I assisted Dean Bill Rose in juggling together the Manufacturing Productivity Laboratory. I have been associated with colleges and universities as a trustee and fund-raiser for 30 years. As a retired businessman, I am aware of the needs of the community for trained personnel. Having run several companies much larger than OCC, I can bring my management skills to bear.

Neither. One must do both, plus one other. OCC must also provide an opportunity for continuing education for residents who may need courses to improve their on-the-job skills. OCC will be in a financial bind. This can only be resolved by raising private funds in the community. Together with Chancellor Fulton, I helped to get a \$50,000 contribution from one of our large financial institutions.

Diversity is an important issue, but it is not the critical issue. Quality of educational opportunity is what is crucial. It is important to offer a high quality educational opportunity to all students without regard to race. Are we successful if we achieve our diversity goals but offer a second rate educational experience? We must do both, but a quality educational experience is the only game in town.

ANNE V. SCOTT




Hometown: Royal Oak, Age: 51
 Occupation: Owner, president Temco by Scott
 Education: Michigan College, BS, Defense College, Defense One
 Community activities: Executive board of Royal Oak Oak Park Chamber of Commerce (president 1966-67), president, board of directors Boys and Girls Club of south Oakland County, chair, Michigan Area Boys and Girls Clubs of America, on chair, Michigan Women's Political Caucus
 Family: Four children, three grandchildren

I feel strongly that there should be stronger leadership from the southeast area of Oakland County on the OCC Board of Trustees. Also, there is a need for a "business link" on the board. I will add both of these ingredients.

Hopefully, with a sound economy in Oakland County, this will never happen. However, I feel emphasis, if need be, should be placed on a two-year associate's degree. Many of these credits could also apply to a four-year university program. The key issue is to provide affordable, quality education.

As a member of the OCC Board of Trustees, I would concentrate on making certain that faculty and curriculum would meet the needs of cultural differences and changing business needs.

JANICE SIMMONS




Hometown: Rochester Hills, Age: 47
 Occupation: Vice president of relations and public relations, North Oakland Medical Center
 Education: Graduate OCC AD nursing program, BS in nursing, MS in administration, Madonna University
 Community activities: Board of trustees, HAVET Domestic Violence Center, vice president, local chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, member, Urban League
 Family: Married, two children

Because OCC was the foundation for my professional growth, I want to be part of its continued growth in Oakland County. The contributions I can make include personal experience as a graduate of the college, belief in always giving your very best and life experiences as an educator, administrator, fund-raiser, marketer and participant in many school activities and community organizations.

I would vote for the program that students would have to continue on at a four-year university. The reason is that over 50 percent of the students attending OCC transfer and many students who have opted for the two-year career track eventually want to continue their education. Today's society is global, the job market highly competitive, and in order to experience a degree of success, continuing education is essential for all.

Yes, the faculty and career offerings reflect society's growing diversity. Each year, I have come in contact with OCC faculty through my attendance at the Black History Month celebration and participation in the OCC Post-10th Program Career Symposium. I have been just to meet and recognize the impressive credentials and enthusiasm related to the students at OCC.

JUDITH WISER - Incumbent




Hometown: West Bloomfield, Age: Not given
 Occupation: Public relations director, Ortho Dental Group, former OCC instructor (1979-81)
 Education: BA in education, Wayne State University, AD in applied science, OCC
 Community activities: SEUCOG Executive Board, 1982-90, Oakland County Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Michigan State Advisory Council to the Hearing Impaired (1987-90)
 Family: Married, one child

I have served six years on the board, the only candidate with that much experience: I taught at OCC, 1974-81, and went back as a student while serving as a trustee, graduating from the paralegal program. I was instrumental in setting aside \$2 million from real estate sales for scholarships. Perhaps most important, I served on the selection committee for the current chancellor, Dr. Pat-ay Fulton.

From my years on the board, I can't imagine a scenario where we would not be able to serve both purposes. We provide low-cost opportunities for students who cannot afford four years at a university, especially away from home, and who wish to start their higher education at OCC. We also train two-year students in upgrade specialized jobs, with such top-rated programs as nursing and culinary arts.

Most definitely! In my experience, the staff and faculty are attentive and concerned about providing programs and curricula for this country's increasingly diverse population. The college's formal planning process, to which the faculty contributes, contains a special direction to place the diverse needs of our students as a first priority.

SAM YONO - Incumbent



Hometown: Northville, Age: 41
 Occupation: Owner-operator four retail stores
 Education: East Side Design and Engineering Institute, 1968-71, Detroit Institute of Technology (1970-71), Shaw College at Detroit School of Business (1971-73)
 Community activities: Chair, Chaldean Federation of America, former chair, and member of executive committee, Assoc. Food Dealers of Michigan, board directors of the Chaldean-Hay Assoc. of Michigan
 Family: Married, seven children

The past six months have been an orientation to me as a board member. In that time, I have become even more committed to OCC and what it stands for. My background as a community leader and a businessman allows me to invest a myriad of contributions to OCC. College education must be available to all segments of our community, especially those less economically fortunate. One example is the development of an annual golf outing fund-raiser which I proposed.

Before making any such choice, a thorough study of community needs must be done. In this instance, spending money for students in a two-year associate's program seems to be more practical. By investing in this program, our rate of return is sooner. Both two-year and four-year students will be good, contributing citizens to society. However, the sooner they can be contributing to the local economy the better for the community and the college.

Yes, the course offerings at OCC reflect the growing diversity — now more than ever before. However, there is room for improvement. Courses may be offered on the history and cultural background of ethnic groups.

Footnote: Candidate Gary J. Welsh did not respond to questionnaire