

NVC Peer Review Team Members 2022



Ms. Leticia Barajas
Academic Representative from
East Los Angeles College

Leticia has over 20 years of experience in community colleges, including a teaching career that spans a variety of faculty roles in multiple disciplines, including basic skills, political science, and workforce and career education, program and curriculum development, and workforce partnerships. She is the Vice Chair of East Los Angeles College's Noncredit Department where she serves on the Academic Senate, co-chairs the Educational Planning Subcommittee, and is faculty co-lead of the CCC Direct Assessment Competency Based Education pilot program. Leticia has previously served as dean and vice president and has extensive experience with policy and procedure development and review.

Leticia has served as ALO (Accreditation Liaison Officer), Standard Co-Chair, and lead writer for four accreditation cycles for three institutions. This is Leticia's fourth time serving on an accreditation peer review team.



Dr. Lori Bennett
Team Chair from
Clovis Community College

Dr. Lori Bennett has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, including community colleges in both California and Washington. Dr. Bennett currently serves as the president of Clovis Community College in the State Center Community College District. Previously, Dr. Bennett served in a variety of roles at Moorpark College, including executive vice president, dean of student learning, department chair, and business professor. Dr. Bennett also taught at Tacoma Community College in Washington, and has over 10 years of business experience.

Dr. Bennett has served on several peer review teams, and this is her third time serving as a team chair. She has served as an Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and has participated in the accreditation process at two colleges.

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Mr. Oleg Bepalov
Administrative Representative
from Moorpark College

Oleg Bepalov is currently the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, PACE, and Marketing at Moorpark College. Prior to joining Moorpark College, Oleg provided leadership for institutional effectiveness at Taft College, Pierce College, UniversityNow, and the San José-Evergreen Community College District. Oleg also held research positions at Bridgepoint Education, Temple University, Princeton University, and ETS. Oleg got a head start on college through the Bucks County Community College dual enrollment program, and completed a BA and MBA from La Salle University.

Oleg has served on five peer review teams and has actively participated in writing several ISERs and various other ACCJC reports.



Dr. Eric Bishop
Vice Chair from Ohlone College

I serve as Superintendent/President of Ohlone College. My professional responsibilities include the oversight of all aspect of the college and its success including student academic and emotional success, financial accountability and providing comprehensive leadership to all aspects and areas of the college.

Dr. Bishop has served on two peer review teams.

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Dr. Robert Curry
Academic Representative from
Allan Hancock College

Dr. Curry has served as the associate superintendent/vice president of academic affairs at Allan Hancock College since 2018. Prior to that, Dr. Curry served as academic dean at the college. Before returning to California, Curry was dean for the school of arts and sciences at Alfred State College, one of the colleges of technology in the State University of New York, where he had served as professor and department chair. He earned a bachelor's degree in comparative literature and creative writing from San Francisco State University, a master's degree in English from California State University, Chico, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Curry has served on a peer review team, has participated in two comprehensive accreditation reviews, and has participated in the ISER writing process.



Ms. Junie Hayashi
Academic Representative from
Leeward Community College

I have been an academic librarian since 2006 and am the Public Services Librarian at Leeward Community College in Honolulu, Hawaii. In this role, I provide student and faculty-focused services, including reference services, instruction, collection development, library outreach, and Open Educational Resources support. Before working in higher education, I practiced law for over 16 years, primarily as a state deputy attorney general representing executive agencies.

Ms. Hayashi has participated on one peer review team and served in multiple roles for two institutional self-evaluations.

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Ms. Barbara Mezaki
Academic Representative from
Mt. San Antonio College

At present, I am serving as the Faculty Accreditation Coordinator at Mt. San Antonio College. I have been teaching credit English as a Second Language (ESL) at Mt. SAC since 1990, and I was an adjunct faculty member at three colleges before starting fulltime. During my tenure, I have served on many shared governance committees including Curriculum, Ed Design, Professional Development, Catalog and Mapping, Educational Technology, Assessment, International Students, and Student Services. I also served as the Academic Senate President, and as a member of the Academic Senate exec board.

Ms. Mezaki is currently serving as a Faculty Accreditation Coordinator. This is her first time serving on a peer review team.



Mr. Christopher Sweeten
Administrative Representative
from Moreno Valley College

Christopher Sweeten is an innovative leader with over 10 years of administrative and leadership experience in the community college system. He currently serves as the vice president of Moreno Valley College's student services, providing vision and support to implement and sustain strategies that impact student success. In his position, he is responsible for the leadership of the college's comprehensive student services division, emphasizing student-focused experiences that are inclusive to all identities. His administrative positions have included dean of student services at West Los Angeles College, dean of pathways and student affairs at Los Angeles Trade-Tech College, director of student affairs at the University of Riverside; School of Medicine, and student services supervisor for Upward Bound at Mt. San Antonio College. He has dedicated much of his professional career working with underserved and underprepared populations, focusing on increasing access and opportunities through equity-based practices. He is recognized for developing innovative programs and systems, leveraging traditional and alternative resources through collaborative and integrated efforts to support student achievement.

Mr. Sweeten has participated in the comprehensive institutional self-evaluation process. This is his first time serving on a peer review team.

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Mr. Jeremy Wallace
Academic Representative from
College of San Mateo

Jeremy Wallace is an Associate Professor of English at College of San Mateo (CSM) in San Mateo, CA. He has served in a variety of leadership roles, including as president of the CSM Academic Senate, as president of the San Mateo County Community Colleges District Academic Senate, and as the coordinator for the CSM Umoja Community. He has written and presented widely on race, educational equity, and social justice in community colleges, and he is a co-author of the book *Minding the Obligation Gap: Striving for Equity in Community Colleges and Beyond* and the forthcoming book *The White Educators Guide to Equity: Teaching for Justice in Community Colleges*. Jeremy received his Master's in English from Notre Dame de Namur University and his postsecondary teaching credentials from San Francisco State University.

Mr. Wallace has served on his college's Accreditation Committee and has served on one peer review team.



Mr. Cory Wathen
Administrative Representative
from Saddleback College

Cory Wathen has served as the Vice President of Administrative Services at Saddleback College in the South Orange County Community College District since February 2019. Before Saddleback College, he worked for 23 years in the Los Rios Community College District, where he served as the: Vice President and Director of Administrative Services at Cosumnes River College; Interim Vice President of Administrative Services at Sacramento City College; and Interim Director of Fiscal Services, Interim Supervisor of Fiscal and Grants and Contracts, and Internal Auditor at the District Office. Mr. Wathen's current responsibilities at Saddleback College include management of the college's budget and fiscal services, grants and contracts, student payments and veteran's benefits, facilities maintenance and operations, technology services, police services (public safety, security, and parking), and other administrative services.

Mr. Wathen has participated in the comprehensive self-evaluation process. This is his first time serving on a peer review team.