

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Michael Sonnleitner Trustee, PCC Board of Directors (Zone 3) _____ Region: Multnomah _____

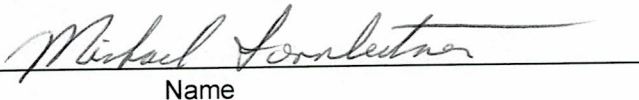
District/ESD/CC: Portland Community College _____ Position #: 17 _____

Portland Community College is the largest institution of post-secondary education in Oregon, with a district including 4 campuses & 8 centers covering most of Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, & Columbia Counties, with a general fund budget of \$440 million/year (employing over 3,000 faculty & staff), and now serving over 8,000 pre-college students (included in a total enrollment of 65,000). PCC accounts for about 1/3 of Oregon's community college attendees.

About 40% of Oregon's high school graduates who continue their education go to community colleges in Oregon, with over 80% of employers surveyed giving strong preference to persons with post-secondary degrees or certificates.

NOTE: Of 22 persons now serving on the OSBA Board & 24 OSBA Legislative Policy Committee members, (46 total people), 43 are PreK-12 Board members, 3 come from Oregon's 20 Educational Service Districts, and ZERO represent any of Oregon's 17 Community College Districts.

I certify that if elected I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA Board of Directors.


Name

September 25th, 2020.
Date

Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.

1. Describe in your own words the mission and goals of OSBA.

To serve all Oregon public school students with comprehensive stable funding and effective operations committed to improving retention & completion, encouraging educational equity with data-informed decisions, and fostering a collaborative lifelong learning environment in which local school board members are better equipped to serve their communities with integrity.

2. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the OSBA board of directors?

Significantly improve student success via 1) improved collaboration between the OSBA and OCCA, 2) sharing student retention & completion insights gleaned from experiences at PCC & elsewhere, and 3) focus more attention on issues relating to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI), including approaches to employee recruitment, hiring, and empowerment).

3. What leadership skills do you believe you bring to the board of directors? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.

Active Listening, Political Strategizing, & Conflict Resolution. In 2019, I took these skills to Salem 10 times while lobbying for the "Student Success Act" (though it excluded funding for community colleges) and helped increase support for OCCA institutions to \$640.9 million while participating in Legislative Town Halls & other actions.

4. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by OSBA?

"Student Success Act" implementation challenges the OSBA to help local Boards & Administrators to 1) better understand and comply with changing COVID-era state & federal requirements and 2) address diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI) issues via K-12 administrator collaboration with school employees & community partners (including Oregon's 17 community colleges).

5. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by your region?

We are challenged to 1) examine patterns of privilege relating to DEI as these become more pronounced in COVID-era educational outcome gaps and 2) systematically foster patterns of increased Horizontal & Vertical Collaboration among all Multnomah County Districts (including PCC and MHCC) thereby encouraging sharing of experiences and problem-solving.

6. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region?

Beyond attending OSBA events, I intend to 1) periodically communicate electronically with board members in this area, 2) promote interaction between PreK-12 boards and the PCC Board of Directors (building on a 2018-19 regional summit organized by PCC) and 3) foster personal relationships by occasionally going to local school board meetings.

Deadline: October 2nd, 2020.

Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.