

Presidential Search Committee Provides Candidate Finalists for College of DuPage Board of Trustees' Consideration

The College of DuPage Presidential Search Committee has met its ambitious timeline to provide exceptional candidates to the COD Board of Trustees. On Thursday, April 7, Committee Chairman Lee Daniels provided three finalists for the Board's consideration. The Board intends to conduct interviews and hold public candidate forums by the end of April before making a final decision.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to commend Lee Daniels and the search committee for carrying out this complex task under a tight deadline," said Board Chairman Deanne Mazzochi. "This diverse group has given selflessly of their time and expertise, and the College community owes them a debt of gratitude."

The search committee includes a wide range of volunteers affiliated with business, legal, financial, government and education communities in District 502, as well as a voting student representative, taxpayers, and members of the COD faculty, administration, and managerial and classified staff.

Committee members are the Honorable Lee Daniels, Chairman, Lee Daniels & Associates LLP, former Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives and House Republican Leader, and Special Assistant to the President of Elmhurst College; Frank Napolitano, Secretary, College of DuPage Board of Trustees; Earl Dowling, Vice President, Student Affairs, College of DuPage; Professor Glenn Hansen, President, College of DuPage Faculty Association; Miguel Hernandez, Vice President, Student Leadership Council, College of DuPage; Nimish Bhatt, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Calamos Investments; Heidi Huizenga, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Prison Fellowship; The Honorable Jeanne Ives, Illinois Representative, District 42; Maren McKellin, Manager of Field and Experiential Learning/Study Abroad, College of DuPage; Nobuko Kudo, Esq., Law Offices of Nobuko Kudo; Paul LeFort, Retired Partner, Deloitte Consulting; Cheryl Baunbach-Caplan, President, Adjunct Association, College of DuPage; Sherman Neal, Principal Owner, Aspire Ventures LLC; Director, College of DuPage Foundation; Patricia Sowatzke, Coordinator of Hazardous Materials, College of DuPage.

"I truly appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Presidential Search Committee," said Board Secretary and Search Committee member Frank Napolitano. "It has been a great experience working with College of DuPage and community leaders to identify finalists for the Board's consideration. We had an opportunity to meet with so many well qualified candidates,

and it is a true testament to the great reputation of the College and fantastic opportunity here that so many individuals had an interest in the position. I look forward to working with the Board to identify our next president from this exceptional group of finalists.”

Chairman Daniels said the search committee was pleased by the caliber of applicants under consideration. “We’re confident that the Board will feel as we do,” Daniels said. “These are well qualified, strong candidates, any of whom could be an excellent contender for the presidency.”

Providing the three candidates is the culmination of nearly six months of sustained work by the volunteer board. On Nov. 16, the search committee recommended that the firm William E. Hay & Company of Chicago be engaged by the College to assist in the search. On Dec. 4 through Dec. 18, the committee met with external and internal stakeholders to receive feedback about characteristics of the next president. Working with William E. Hay & Company and consultant Dr. Robert C. Dickeson, a national leader in higher education, the committee received 388 applications. By Feb. 29, the committee had narrowed the search down to the top 12 candidates. By late March, four semi-finalists remained in the running for further vetting. The committee voted on March 31 to provide three finalists to the Board of Trustees. [Click here](#) to learn more about the presidential search process.

“I am extremely proud of the members of this search committee,” said Daniels. “They have taken their jobs very seriously, and it has been a pleasure to serve with them.”

The three candidates are as follows:

Barbara Kavalier, District President, Navarro College

Barbara Kavalier is currently District President of Navarro College, Corsicana, Texas, a district with four campuses serving seven counties and 10,000 students.

Dr. Kavalier has 30 years of experience as a president, vice president, associate vice president, dean or executive assistant at five colleges. She has taught at the collegiate level as an adjunct or visiting scholar at four institutions. Courses taught include education, human development and developmental education. Her book, *Entrepreneurial Leadership*, (co-authored with John Roueche) is used in national leadership programs for up-and-coming college presidents.

Past leadership positions include: President, San Jose City College (CA); Vice President of Student Services, San Diego Mesa College (CA); Associate Vice President, Tacoma

Community College (WA); and Dean, Director, and Executive Assistant to the President, Dallas Community College District (TX).

The only finalist who has an Associate's degree (Mountain View College, TX), President Kavalier's degrees also include a B.S. from Texas Christian University, an M.A. in business from Amberton University, and an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from the University of Texas.

Barbara Kavalier states that she is inspired by College of DuPage mission to be a center for excellence in teaching, learning and cultural experiences. She hopes to focus on leadership, advocacy and diversity, student access and success, and community partnerships and workforce development.

Ann Rondeau (Vice Admiral, United States Navy, Retired)

Ann Rondeau (Vice Admiral, United States Navy, Retired) is currently a consultant and Partner with IBM Watson Group. She is a past president of the National Defense University, a consortium of five colleges and nine research centers in Washington, DC.

Dr. Rondeau has 26 years of experience in significant military and educational roles, including Deputy Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command in Illinois, Pentagon Director/Chief of Staff for the U.S. Navy Staff, Commander of the Navy Personnel Development Command in Virginia, Commander of the Naval Service Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois, Pacific Fleet Staff Chief of Staff in Hawaii, Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity in Tennessee, and other staff and commanding responsibilities with policy, support, and student service.

Her national reputation comes from her entrepreneurial approach and business savvy, her roles as National Security Advisor to the U.S. Attorney General and as White House Fellow assigned to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In addition to graduating from numerous leadership development programs sponsored by IBM, the Center for Creative Leadership, and the School of Business at the University of North Carolina, Ann Rondeau holds a B.A. from Eisenhower College (NY); and M.A. from Georgetown University (DC); and an Ed.D. from the College of Education at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service from Carthage College (WI).

Dr. Rondeau states that she welcomes the opportunity to lead College of DuPage in its continuous journey toward excellence and enduring impact. She considers herself a culture

leader, a champion for both the student and the teacher as well as a cohort for the 18-to-30-year-old and the adult learner.

David Sam, President, Elgin Community College

David Sam is currently President of Elgin Community College (IL), serving 10,937 students.

Dr. Sam has 22 years of administrative experience as president, vice president, dean or coordinator at seven colleges, including two years as Coordinator of International Programs at the College of DuPage. He has taught at the collegiate level as an adjunct and as Assistant/Full Professor at five institutions. Courses taught include international relations, business and government.

He has received national recognition from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for two innovative projects at Elgin: Aligning the 12th and 13th Grades; and significantly reducing student loan debt through financial literacy.

Past leadership positions include: President of North Harris College (TX); Dean of the Community and Technical College of the University of Akron (OH), Vice President of Harrisburg Area Community College (PA); Dean at Mott Community College (MI); Coordinator of International Studies at the College of DuPage; and Associate Director at Harold Washington College (IL).

A lifelong learner, David Sam holds six degrees: a B.A. from Illinois State University; an M.A. from Tufts University (MA); the M.B.A. from Northwestern University; a Ph.D. in International Relations from Tufts University; a J.D. from the University of Akron; and an LLM from the University of Dundee in Scotland.

Dr. Sam expresses his commitment to academic excellence, transparency and openness, and inclusiveness in decision making. He understands the interests of the College's many stakeholders and points to his success in reporting to and working with a governing board, including the ability to develop healthy working relationships in engaging board members. His track record includes a 100 percent success rate in securing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

###

Joseph Moore
Vice President, Marketing and Communications
College of DuPage
Office (630) 942-2371
Cell (630) 991-6557