



Antelope Valley College

Superintendent/President Finalists 2022



Dr. Jennifer Zellet

May 3, 2022



Dr. Erin Vines

May 4, 2022



Dr. Peter Gitau

May 5, 2022

Candidates & Forum

The Antelope Valley College Board of Trustees are pleased to announce the finalist candidates for the search for the college's next Superintendent/President. The finalists were selected by the presidential search committee after narrowing the pool through semi-finalist interviews in April.

Antelope Valley College will host the three finalists the first week of May. Each candidate will visit the campus for their final interviews with employees, students, community members and the Board of Trustees. The sessions will be conducted in person, with the open public forums taking place in the Cafeteria from 2:30 - 3:30 pm on the days listed below each candidate's name.

Employees, students, and community members are encouraged to submit questions for the finalists prior to the open forums (<https://links.avc.edu/questions>). Submissions will be reviewed for equal employment opportunity appropriateness. Related or similar questions will be grouped together and asked as one question. Due to open forum time constraints, we cannot guarantee that all questions will be presented to the candidates. The deadline to submit questions is 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Employees and community members who attend the sessions with candidates will have the opportunity to complete a form in-person to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees. All forms must be completed and left at the conclusion of the forum attended. Feedback submitted after that time may not be taken into consideration by the Board of Trustees.

Candidates & Forum



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DR. JENNIFER ZELLET

MAY 3, 2022

Dr. Jennifer Zellet serves as the Vice President of Instruction at Modesto Junior College. In her 23-year career in Higher Education, she has worked in public and private, 2- and 4-year institutions. Starting as English faculty, she earned Assoc. Professor status at Rochester College before becoming the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Upon returning to California, she began at Modesto Junior College as English Faculty gaining tenure before transitioning to Dean of Business, Behavioral and Social Sciences, then Vice President of Instruction. While at MJC, she has worked successfully with faculty, classified professionals, and students to implement Guided Pathways, expand Dual Enrollment, and organize the Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Division, all the while championing student success and keeping equity at the fore.

In the community, Dr. Zellet is actively involved in the Modesto Rotary (MORO). She serves as co-chair of the MORO International Service Committee, on the board of the SCOE Leadership Academy, on the Stanislaus County Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee, and as a member of the SBDC Business Development Committee. Dr. Zellet is an active member in multiple professional organizations including the Association for California Community College Administrators and the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers as President-Elect.

Dr. Zellet has an earned Ph.D. in English and an MLitt (Master of Letters) in Scottish and Irish Studies, both from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Throughout both degrees, she was affiliated with the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies. Born and raised in the Central Valley of California, Dr. Zellet's studies and career have taken her to both east and west coasts, the Midwest, and overseas.

She wishes to bring her vast experience in Higher Education to Antelope Valley College and serve the community as the college reimagines and reinvents itself looking past pandemic times.



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DR. ERIN VINES

MAY 4, 2022

Dr. Erin Vines has over 22 years of experience in administration, currently serving as Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services at Antelope Valley College (AVC) for the past 8 1/2 years. Prior to joining the AVC family, Dr. Vines served as Dean of Counseling and Special Services at Solano Community College for seven years. Dr. Vines served as adjunct faculty at California State University, Northridge in both the masters and doctoral programs. He served as full-time faculty, classified and administrator at the secondary level prior to entering into higher education. Dr. Vines serves on numerous statewide nonprofits boards including: African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND), Chief Student Services Officers Association (CSSSOA), and The Coalition.

Dr. Vines has a true understanding of the many challenges related to enrollment, retention and student success that confront community colleges today. He also knows firsthand as a community college graduate and current community college leader that a positive campus culture, challenging coursework, supportive faculty, effective supplemental instruction and sound innovative leadership can enhance a student's experience while fulfilling the mission of the college. Dr. Vines is a leader that strongly believes serving in unity and has demonstrated building and sustaining strong teams across campuses where he has served. He believes that working together as a team while respecting roles will contribute to student success.

Dr. Vines earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California in Educational Leadership. He earned two Master's Degrees, one in Education Counseling from California State University, Bakersfield and the other from the University of LaVerne in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Vines is married and has one teenage daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, playing golf and watching sports. He is also a mentor to many students and professionals.



DR. PETER GITAU

MAY 5, 2022

Dr. Peter Gitau is the Vice President for Student Services at Butte-Glenn Community College in Northern California. With over 20 years of executive higher education management, Dr Gitau's professional experiences include serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Northern Kentucky University and Dixie State University, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students at SIU Carbondale and Chief Diversity Officer at Manchester University in Indiana. Dr Gitau has a strong record of creating effective cross campus teams to improve student success outcomes. He has worked with faculty groups to enhance curricular and co-curricular engagement and created strong college-community programs to foster inclusion, public perception and student safety.

Dr Gitau has a passion, skill set and track record in strengthening enrollment and student success. Using an integrated, market driven, data informed approach, Dr Gitau has a strong commitment to access, inclusiveness and opportunity. Always in pursuit of excellence and quality improvement, Dr Gitau strongly believes in a truly progressive, post-modern college that embraces collaboration and trans-disciplinarity, nurturing environments that promote authentic, real life student learning. He is a strong proponent of holistic learning and the seamless integration of curricular and co-curricular programs.

A first-generation college student from Kenya, Dr. Gitau came to the United States as an international student where he earned a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas. He is the Founder and President of the African International Foundation for Educational Excellence (AIFEE), a non-profit organization with service -learning sites and community development initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa. As a globally engaged leader and educator, Dr Gitau has facilitated the international engagement of hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members. Guided by a philosophy of student centeredness, Dr Gitau continues to play the role of mentor, advocate and educator.