### RACHEL MARIA H. SOLEMSAAS

#### **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Education in Higher Education with emphasis on Community College Leadership, Washington State University

Masters in Public Administration, University of Washington

Bachelor of Science in Accounting, De La Salle University

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College, Hilo, HI, July 2016 to present

Hawai'i Community College (HawCC) is a comprehensive community college committed to the overall success of Hawai'i Island learners, the learners' communities and their families, in the spirit of E 'Imi Pono (seeking excellence). As a comprehensive community college located in three campus center in the Big Island of Hawai'i, it is part of the University of Hawai'i system and offers a variety of credit and noncredit programs. Programs are designed for academic university transfer, career and technical education, high school dual credit, workforce development, adult basic education, and specialized training programs. In Fall 2015, HawCC had a total enrollment of 3,087 representing 1,805 FTE served by 92 full-time faculty, 100 part-time faculty and 148 staff and administrators.

### Responsibilities:

As the Chancellor for HawCC, I serve as the chief executive officer for the College and as an officer of the University of Hawai'i System. I provide executive leadership in academic affairs, undergraduate education, professional training, student affairs, administration, finance and budget, human resources including the promotion of diversity, equality and affirmative action, facilities management, capital improvements, and other aspects of developing, planning, administering, and managing the operations of the campus.

I work with the President, Vice President for Community Colleges (VPCC) and other chancellors and other University executives and administrators in the planning, development and coordination of operations of HawCC with those of the system and other campuses. Keeps the VPCC, and through the VPCC, the Board of Regents fully informed concerning the operations, needs and priorities of the College.

I work with governance bodies and advisory groups and I serve as the chief public voice, interpreter, liaison, and advocate for HawCC to internal and external constituencies. I provide executive leadership in raising funds and obtaining resources for the College to enhance the ability of the institution to provide financial support for students, and to provide resources for innovative and creative enterprises, endowments, and academic programs and services. I develop and oversee agreements, partnerships, and exchanges between the College and other educational institutions and organizations, nationally and internationally. I represent the College to the Hawai'i legislature and other state and federal governmental bodies and I work with governmental agencies to advance our programs.

Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, NV, January 2012 to June 2016

Truckee Meadows Community College is known as a "Jobs College" providing quality education that meets the workforce needs of the community. As a comprehensive community college located in Reno, Nevada, it is part of the Nevada System of Higher Education and offers a variety of credit and non-credit programs at 5 educational sites and more than 20 community locations. Programs are designed for academic university transfer, career and technical education, high school dual credit, workforce development, adult basic education, and specialized training programs. The college recently expanded their offerings with two baccalaureate programs in Homeland Security and Logistics Management. In 2014-15, TMCC had a total enrollment of 11,686 representing 6,246 FTE served by 161 full-time faculty,

367 part-time faculty and 287 full-time staff and administrators.

## Responsibilities:

As the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), I served as the Chief Business Officer for the college. In serving about 12,000 students annually and in overseeing a college budget of \$60 million, I was responsible for providing vision, leadership, planning, and coordination for the fiscal and administrative functions of the College. This was effectively accomplished by providing leadership to about 100 staff members in budget planning, accounting services, facilities maintenance and operations, and information technology.

As a member of the President's Executive Team, I was the administrator in charge for the planning and resource allocation processes, ensuring the alignment of planning, assessment and resource allocation in supporting the college's decision-making and program development. I facilitated a campus-wide dialogue of the college's strategic directions and operational plans.

In my capacity as the college's Chief Financial Officer, I facilitated a transparent budget process. This is of particular importance with the severity of the budget cuts imposed on the college's state allocation coinciding with the implementation of a new performance-based formula funding. I represented the College in the system-wide discussion of the new performance-based model and its implementation, ensuring policies and appropriate fiscal incentives promotes student success through completion. I promoted strong budgetary controls and prudent fiscal strategies that not only address the immediate budget deficit but also sustain the college into the future. This included a careful review for appropriate reserve levels, the appropriate use of fund balances in supporting one-time critical needs rather than ongoing operations, conservative projections of growth, leveraging of other revenue sources and expanding of capacity through an investment in efficient support systems.

I was responsible for campus operations and capital planning, including the update and implementation of the college's Facility Master Plan for 2014. This included overseeing the planning and design of a new Redfield Health Center, remodel of the Applied Technology Center at Edison and the enhancements of the Dandini Campus. In addition, I provided responsive initiatives in support of the college's technology and auxiliary services such as the implementation of the student discounted bus program and an enhanced technology bandwidth and data infrastructure capacity for the students.

I was the college's liaison with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) administrative and operations functions. I was an active participant with the Business Officer's Council (BOC) of NSHE. I represent the College or the community college system in special projects such as the Tuition and Fee taskforce and Technology Integrate II implementation.

Vice President for Administrative Services, Bellevue College, Bellevue, WA, January 2009 to December 2011

Bellevue College is the largest single-district community college in the State of Washington. It is known for its forward thinking and responsive approaches to the needs of its community by offering six transfer programs, over 100 professional and technical programs, basic education programs, dual-enrolled programs, continuing and community education plus 7 bachelor's degree programs. As the college approaches its 50th anniversary, the College continues its commitment in providing affordable and accessible education to its community, in a 100-acre prime location within a region characterized by population growth and economic prosperity.

# Responsibilities:

As the Vice President for Administrative Services at Bellevue College, I served as the Chief Business Officer. In serving over 37,000 students annually and in overseeing a college budget of \$94 million, I was responsible for providing vision, leadership, planning, and coordination for the fiscal and administrative functions of the College. This is effectively accomplished by supporting about 145 staff members in institutional research and effectiveness; budget and accounting; payroll; purchasing; bookstore operations; material resources and mail center; risk management; safety and security; and facilities maintenance and operations, including custodial services, grounds, buildings and capital projects.

As a member of the President's Staff, I was designated as the administrator in charge for the college's institutional planning for 2011-2017. This responsibility included leading the development of the College's

strategic plan and Year One accreditation report. In addition, I led the creation of a new Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research that would improve coordination and facilitation of institutional effectiveness efforts, accreditation, research and evaluation and assessment management.

In my capacity as the college's Chief Financial Officer, I facilitated a transparent budget process in ensuring a balanced budget plan. Integral to the budget process is its ability to support the college's strategic direction despite the impacts of an economic downturn. This was accomplished with strong budgetary controls and prudent fiscal policies.

I was responsible for campus operations and capital planning, including the implementation of the college's Facility Master Plan of 2008. This included overseeing the completion of the new Science Building in 2009, the acquisition of a new facility for the North Campus Center, the renovation of the college's computer server room, the acquisition of properties adjacent to the campus for the future residential program, the improvement for way finding and signage system and planning for an East Campus facility. In addition, I provided responsive initiatives in support of the college's auxiliary services such as the implementation of a Textbook Rental program funded by a federal grant and in establishing the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the college, in which I served as Chair. The latter greatly supported the college's ability to acquire new grant opportunities and strengthened our efforts in supporting emerging technologies in the region.

I was the college's liaison with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) administrative and operations functions. I was an active participant with the Business Affairs Commission (BAC) of the SBCTC. I represented BAC in special project subcommittees such as the eAdministrative initiative, Running Start Finance Study. I served on the labor management teams for both the classified staff and the faculty bargaining units.

Vice President for Finance and Operations, Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood, WA, August 2004 to December 2008

Edmonds Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year institution of higher education located in a 50-acre campus in Lynnwood, Washington. It offers 68 associate degrees, 58 professional certificates in 29 programs of study to about 20,000 students, including 1,200 international students from approximately 74 countries. In addition, nearly 40% of all students take at least one online or hybrid class.

### Responsibilities:

I was responsible for providing vision, leadership, planning, and coordination for the fiscal and administrative functions of the College. This was effectively accomplished by overseeing the tasks of 85 staff members in budget and accounting, payroll, purchasing, bookstore operations, printing and mail center, risk management, safety and security, information technology, and facilities maintenance and operations. As a member of the President's Cabinet, I participated in long-term budget strategies, planning and implementing organizational strategies and approaches.

While serving as CFO, the College has enjoyed financial stability despite two recent years of enrollment shortfalls. I facilitated financial planning that utilized the college's strategic direction, while at the same time, following prudent and strategic approaches in budget development. I ensured that budgetary controls are in place as policy decisions are made. Under my leadership, fiscal strategies were provided to several areas (e.g., Intensive English as Second Language, childcare) that ensured accountability of their financial operations. For the first time, these programs achieved fiscal stability.

I oversaw the implementation of the college's facility master plan (last revised in 2005). Guided by the college's mission and goals, the master plan directed the campus capital activities. These included three renovation projects, three new buildings, including a 181-bed dormitory, and the Alternative Learning Center with the Edmonds School District (ESD), both with a unique financing model.

I was the college's liaison with the SBCTC administrative and operations functions, including an active participation with BAC. I represented BAC in special project subcommittees such as the electronic fund disbursement system; the selection process for the facility system (Megamation); and the labor management team for the contract negotiation with the Washington Public Employees Association (WPEA) for Higher Education. I served on the college's administrative teams for both the classified staff and the faculty negotiated agreements and labor management committees.

I dutifully represented the College with our local constituents such as the State of Washington Community Trade & Economic Development (CTED), Edmonds School District (ESD), surrounding cities, Snohomish County and the school districts. I was involved in the development of the South Snohomish County consortium for a broadcast system, ensuring the College's pivotal role as its broadcast system provider. I represented the President in WACTC meetings, Economic Development Council meetings and other community public hearings.

Chief Financial Officer, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Seattle, WA, March 2004 to July 2004

Finance Director, Comptroller, Snohomish County, Everett WA, June 2000 to February 2004

Chief Financial Officer, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, Seattle, WA, April 1995 to June 2000

**Principal Accountant,** Seattle King County Department of Public Health, Seattle, WA, January 1991 to March 1995

HSE/ABE Math 1 Instructor, Truckee Meadows Community, Reno, NV, 2015 to 2016

# PROFESSIONAL, COMMUNITY/CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board, Since 2016

**Commission Member**, American Association of Community College (AACC) Economic and Workforce Development Commission, Since 2017

Board Member, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, Since 2018

Board Member, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Since 2018

Board Member, East Hawaii Community Partnership HUI, Since 2017

President, National Asian/Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC), an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), member since 2008

Evaluator, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), evaluator since 2013

Evaluator, Accrediting Commission on Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), evaluator since 2017

Campus Steering Committee Member, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Integrate II,

Tuition and Fee Committee Member, NSHE, 2013

Running Start Taskforce Member, WA State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, 2005

Capital Chair/Member, WA State Board of Community and Technical Colleges Business Affairs Commission, 2008

Blue Ribbon Committee Member, Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, member since 2015

Community Steering Committee Member, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, member since

Model Education Advisory Committee Member, A Collaborative Initiative to Improve Educational Outcomes with Foster Children and Youth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Court, Washoe County, member since 2012

Chair, Fostering College Success Initiative (Foster Youth), member since 2013

Member, Northern Nevada AAPI Alumni Chapter, member since 2014

Board Director, Treasurer, Dawson Place, Child advocacy center in Snohomish County member since 2002 Citizen Advisory Committee Member, City of Bellevue Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project, member 2010-2012

Commissioner, Snohomish County Children Commission, member 2002 – 2008

Committee Member, Association of WA Counties, Streamlining Sales Tax Project, 2003

Taskforce Member, WA Dreamliner Initiative, 2002-2003

Committee Member, Housing Hope Finance Subcommittee, member 2004-2008

Committee Member, King County Charitable Campaign, member 1997-1999

Member, American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA), member since 1988

Member Washington Filipino Association of CPAs, member 1989

Local Committee (La Salle) President International Association of Students in Economics and Management (AIESEC), 1985. Chosen as one out of 12 national delegates to the 7th Annual Asia-Pacific Leadership Development Seminar held in Tamkang University, Taiwan.

Member, Junior Society of Philippine Accountants (JSPA) 1983 to 1985