

JAN GIOVANNINI-HILL
OHLONE BOARD APPLICANT RESPONSES

[Please submit your responses to the following questions by 5:00 p.m., April 12th.
Please e-mail to sauer@ohlone.edu, or bring to the President's Office.]

1. **Why are you seeking appointment to the Ohlone Board of Trustees?** *I have a sincere desire and interest in providing important public service to this District and to give back to the community by my time and energy, lessons learned over time--and visualizing a more gender balanced board membership than currently exists.*

2. **What special skills do you bring to the job of Ohlone Trustee?** *I would bring a lifelong appreciation of, working knowledge of, and interest in higher education in general and the ability it has of providing opportunities to affect positive change at a personal, community wide and global level. Being a first generation college student myself, and working and attending various public/proprietary institutions the last four decades—I think I would be a perfect fit for what this Board needs at this time. I have worked and volunteered in MANY different community venues the last several decades in the Tri-City area, am very well respected and known and could bring connections, expertise and ideas toward effectively advancing the college's programs and services to the broader community we serve. Additionally, my background over the years in student employment, as an administrator of a student health clinic, in financial aid, in planning and enrollment management and many other academic venues provides me a clear understanding and perspective of how a college operates from the inside. I have the interpersonal and communication skills, the analytical skills, values, attitudes and personal characteristics the Community College League of California suggests for Trusteeship.*

3. **What do you believe the role of the trustee is? What areas would you emphasize as a Trustee?** *Trustees act on behalf of the general public for the public good to ensure that a public college is an integral part of and participating member of the community it serves. It is important to have and continually nurture strong ties in the overall community to represent the public good. Trustees also need to hire and support a chief executive officer who leads the district with excellence and provides strong positive morale amongst its constituents and membership. A trustee is a member of a team that monitors the performance of the district, and is proactive in anticipating and engaging community needs and future trends that might affect those needs. This team should have high standards of legal and ethical quality for district operations and governs through the board policies and goals it has set for timely accomplishment. All of this lofty work is accomplished toward providing access to higher public education to all in a safe and supportive environment that supports student success and student learning outcomes. One of my primary points of emphasis would be greater acknowledgement of the Ohlone Community College District in and as seen and known by our local and Bay Area constituents, stakeholders and the community we serve.*

4. **As a trustee what do you hope to accomplish during this term? How can the board or college help you in achieving those goals?** *If selected, I would hope to be a part of the team that sees the timely completion of and well acknowledged opening of the Newark campus within budget; and continues to monitor the Measure A compliance issues that the*

voters put in place March 2002, including progress on the Student Support Building on the Fremont campus; and to move ahead on the frontage property project. The board or college could assist me in achieving these goals by continuing to provide access to the information available on these projects, which might include orientation sessions with the CEO, certain administrators, college tours and additional resource materials, workshops and/or study sessions as might be provided to newly elected trustees.

5. **What would be your three top priorities if elected to the Ohlone Board?** *If selected, I would hope to build bridges within local school districts and other campuses of higher education and how the District is viewed in the community at large; be a voice for respectful and collaborative dialogue both on the board and in the community and a role model for gender and academic inclusiveness and visionary representation on the board; and be a supportive partner in the community to advocate for the District and its programs and the value it provides to the public. [Also see attached]*
6. **Whom would you feel you are representing if you are appointed to the board of trustees?** *I would wish to represent the greater public toward the success of the college district and its students and their learning outcomes now and in the future.*
7. **What do you see as the College's role in our community? What would you do as a trustee to further the role?** *The Ohlone Community College District should be seen as an instrumental leader and player in our community. The District needs to be seen as a 'first choice' in meeting the educational and cultural needs of the diverse area it serves to offer classes and workshops and programs that provide open access in a safe and healthy environment whether students wish to learn skills in support of quick entrance into the workforce in vocational, professional or technical fields, to update their marketable skills and knowledge and/or possible re-entry into the workforce, or transfer onto other institutions for additional knowledge and expertise. I would work if selected for this position, in supporting and advocating for the Ohlone Community College District in the areas mentioned above, and in the methods as stated in Question 5 above.*
8. **What is your understanding of the mission and purposes of the community colleges in California? What are the mission and purposes of our district? Do you have any suggestions about how Ohlone College can do better at achieving its mission and purpose?** *The mission and purposes of the community colleges in California can be found in the Education Code Sections 66010.1-66010.8, and includes: that a community college shall admit any California resident with a high school diploma or equivalent and may admit anyone capable of profiting from the instruction offered. This also includes offering academic and vocational education at the lower division level for recent high school graduates and those returning to school. Another primary mission of the CCC system is to advance economic growth and global competitiveness in California through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement. The mission of our district has been stated as: 'to serve the community by providing a center for career, technology, science and liberal arts education, cultural enrichment, economic development and lifelong learning. The college affirms its commitment to open access for all adults who can benefit from its instruction.' It has also been stated as: 'to serve the community by providing instruction for basic skills, career entry, university transfer, economic development, and personal enrichment for all who can benefit from our instruction in an*

environment where student learning success is highly valued, supported, and continually assessed.’ The Core Purpose is stated to be: ‘To serve the communities of Fremont, Newark and surrounding areas by providing transfer, career and community education in collaboration with colleges, universities, local high schools and local business and industry.’ The vision and mission of the College also include core values and principles, and programs and services in support of its purpose. We can achieve our mission and purpose by staying involved with and within the community we serve, understanding the public higher education institutions/systems available in our state, fostering communication links across business, higher education and industry and maintaining a positive image for the college overall.

9. **Please discuss your understanding of the relationship between the trustees on the board and the administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the institution.** *All District business needs to be channeled through the OCCD CEO and designated staff for recommendations TO the board. It would not be appropriate for individual board members to canvas other administrators, faculty, staff or students independent of such an arrangement on their own, especially if they attempted to bring such issues and inquiries directly to the board in public without the express knowledge of the CEO. All of the various entities are vitally important to the overall success of the District, but their relationship should be more of a check and balance of each other. The board should not be in a position of micromanaging the campus and how it functions on a day to day basis.*

10. **What is your opinion of shared governance? What is the board’s role in dealing with decisions made by college staff before being presented to the board for ratification?** *Shared governance can be an effective and healthy process for the overall campus climate and operations. The board should be very respectful of the process especially as it might relate to dealing with decisions made by college staff before being presented to the board. It is not easy in this day and age to bring so many diverse ideas and opinions into a cohesive written or verbal format that creates the language that might finally reach the board for its consideration and ratification. As a board member, one should stay on top of monitoring that the process is followed; that discussion and input from all parties is considered; and work with the CEO to understand the full implications of all decisions and request further inquiry or discussion if needed. Reading through some of the web site materials at Ohlone College, it appears that during the 2003-04 fiscal year, the concepts of shared governance were instituted from a college-wide effort to identify the institutional values and goals and align them with current accreditation recommendations and themes. The Learning College Model (Title III project) was also happening at the same time; primarily through instructional reform, and in support of employee and student learning outcomes. The development of the new governing structure can be seen in the strategic vision, values and goals the campus now has in place. I would welcome working within and supporting such a structure and environment.*

11. **What is your understanding of the primary responsibilities of the board? What would be your responsibility to the board as a trustee?** *Trustees are responsible to govern the college district on behalf of and for the public good. There are many tasks involved in this role that can be categorized into several components, including: maintaining a strong board and CEO partnership; overall effective and responsible Board functioning; respecting the organizational structure of the District especially as it relates to local*

decision-making and collective bargaining negotiations; current and up to date policies and decisions; monitoring the planning and institutional effectiveness; fiscal responsibilities and monitoring campus fiscal conditions; being visible in the community and securing support from local leaders and governmental advocates; and maintaining ethical standards of practice and avoiding personal conflicts of interest. My responsibility would be to continue to seek resources and avenues available to network and learn all that I can to quickly become an effective contributor on this board.

- 12. If a board member feels strongly about a matter, but his or her position is not supported by the board, how should this trustee conduct him or her self?** *It is important to understand that one's position might not always be supported by every other board member every single time. Respect. Knowledge. Education. Collaboration. In an academic environment, one needs to nurture and engage in conduct that is respectful, is always learning, values lifelong education and is personally responsible and collaborative in nature. Board members also need to be good listeners.*
- 13. What is your connection to Ohlone College? Have you ever taken classes or attended events at or sponsored by the college?** *I have assisted my four children and spouse in enrolling at and registering for classes at Ohlone College, as well as, several of their friends over the years. I have attended student advising sessions on campus, sports and cultural events over the years including swim meets, soccer games, graduations, plays and concerts; and I often utilize the bookstore. I recently attended a Business Supervisory Management Advisory Committee meeting on campus; and I often tune in to the college TV station to watch Board Meetings and other programs.*
- 14. What do you see as the major issues facing the community college(s) in the next decade?** *Enrollment management, declining fiscal resources, the result of decades of deferred building maintenance, a stable workforce in an unaffordable housing market and economy, and a revised consensus on what the future of higher education and the state Master Plan should look like in this highly competitive marketplace.*
- 15. What is your general impression of Ohlone College?** *Overall I see Ohlone College being a very well run institution that is steadily improving under its current leadership. I would be proud to be a member of this Board of Trustees and this College District and its theme of 'A World of Cultures United in Learning'. It is, however, an underutilized jewel to many of the people in its service area. We need to engage and outreach further in the marketing of this important institution to a broader array of potential and future student learners.*

Resources used in preparation of the above questions included information links available on the Ohlone Community College web site.