



## 2024 Southwestern Community College Board Candidate Questionnaire

### **Part I: Basic Information**

Name: KRIS GALICIA BROWN

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Occupation: CONSULTANT / SMALL BIZ OWNER      Employer: SELF EMPLOYED

### **Part II: Candidate Profile**

#### **1. Office Sought and Location:**

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD AREA 2  
Imperial Beach, Coronado, Chula Vista: South of F St., West of Broadway; San Diego areas south of Chula Vista, West of Beyer to West of Dairy Mart to the border.

#### **2. Are you a lifelong Democrat? If not, what was your prior registration and when did you register as a Democrat?**

No, Before the 2008 election I was registered as a non partisan.

#### **3. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running?**

30+ years

#### **4. If elected, would you consider qualified Democrats as your first choice for appointments to advisory committees?**

Yes, most certainly.

**5. Have you ever run for office before, and if yes what was the result of your campaign?**

This is my first campaign. I'm running as an incumbent as I was appointed to the seat I currently hold.

**6. What are the primary factors that motivated you to run for this office?**

I'm running to keep my seat as part of my ongoing commitment to students, youth and working families in my community, and helping elevate South County economically and socially. I am a proponent of providing sustainable, affordable and accessible high-quality learning experiences and career readiness to my community.

I was appointed into a vacant at-large seat in August 2023. As an entrepreneur, I am often invited to speak with students as part of professional panels to talk about my atypical path through higher education and landing in the public affairs space, and separately, in the food space. My motivation is two-prong. In speaking with students in these panels, I realize that there is still so much stigma attached to community colleges while so many of these students will be first-gen college goers, thinking that they need to go directly to a 4-year university or the option exists to transfer, get an associates or certificate. Community college is a very strategic option that most don't completely consider. My other motivation are my two teen daughters and continue to be very involved in their schools and district since they started their educational careers, so this is also a natural progression for me into this space.

**7. What are your qualifications? (include education, community involvement and/or special strengths.)**

I'm a direct reflection of the community I serve and an example of the types of doors that can open when opportunity presents itself. I'm very involved in the political, small business, education and non-profit circles.

I am fortunate to serve on a progressive governing board alongside progressive Southwestern College District (SWC) leadership that are taking very mindful and actionable steps to bolster student excellence and student success. I am an immigrant, a micro business owner and a resident in this community for over 30 years. I am a longtime community advocate, and my education, awards and community involvement is listed below.

**EDUCATION**

2003 - 2006 Art Institute of California - San Diego  
*Bachelor of Science, Advertising*

2000 - 2003 San Diego State University & Mesa College  
*Studies in Communication and Business Administration*

2000 Mar Vista High School

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

2023 National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) BRAVA Rising Star Awardee  
2022 National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) DEIB Scholarship Recipient  
2021 Equity SHero Award in Business - Office of County Supervisor Chair Nora Vargas

## **COMMUNITY**

2023 - Present	Appointed Governing Board Member, Southwestern Community College
2023 - Present	YMCA of San Diego County Corporate Board
2014 - Present	Border View Family YMCA; Immediate Past Board Chair
2018 - Present	YMCA of San Diego County Board of Governors
2022 - 2024	Sweetwater Union High School District School Site Council
2022 - 2023	Sweetwater Union High School DPAC Committee
2019 - 2021	YMCA of San Diego County Corporate Board
2014 - 2022	Pro Bono Community Relations & Fundraising for Hawking STEAM Charter1

## **8. If elected, what three things would you try to accomplish?**

1. Innovative policies for better and more equitable access to higher education for all, from high school students to seniors and continuing education.
2. Increasing connectedness to the communities we serve and leveraging our binational region to foster, educate and grow local talent and increase the local talent pool.
3. Bolstering dual enrolment with SUHSD high schools, partnerships with 4-yr universities and specialty programing/apprenticeships, for long-term planning for the future of the region in workforce demand and providing pathways to those industry/industries needed.

## **9. What are the biggest challenges facing Southwestern and community colleges today and how will you tackle them?**

Now is the time to be really innovative and bold in our approach to messaging around higher education. There's still a lot of stigma around community colleges despite community colleges providing the largest output of workforce-ready people in the state of California. Often times, folx aren't aware of the offerings at SWC and different pathways and partnerships we have that are direct-to-workforce or partnerships with 4-year institutions to easily transfer. We're continuing to expand our partnerships and reorganized to create a Office of Advancement & Community Engagement (ACE) includes marketing, communications, development/foundation, alumni relations, grants and special events so outreach and communication efforts are cohesive.

An Office of Equity and Engagement (OEE) has also been created in the last couple of years. OEE directly reports to the Superintendent/President (S/P) instead of HR. It was designed this way to support all offices in the administration directly to ensure our practices from hiring, student and staff support/culture and policy are equitable and best practice. SWC had a previous history of tension between various culture groups and challenges within leadership. OEE helps to create a district climate that advances equity, diversity, inclusion,

social justice, leadership, and organizational wellness. And cultivating excellence through professional learning experiences, engagement opportunities, and resources that provide SWC, across the district, with training, collaboration, connection and support to assist in building their capacity to meet the needs of our students, colleagues, and community.

Facilities and Transportation - We just passed a bond that will be on the Nov 5 ballot to provide us with the opportunity to rehab and expand our facilities. Congressman Juan Vargas has also provided us with \$500,000 to relocate and expand our SWC transportation hub on the Chula Vista campus.

**10. What are your opinions on how Southwestern College can ensure access to quality education that prepares students for the workforce or additional higher education opportunities, adapt to new technologies, and ensure a safe and equitable environment for all students regardless of their background or circumstances?**

SWC currently has very strong leadership who are all aligned in moving the college to really serve the future. We also have very strong goals from the S/P, Governing Board and within Education Vision Plan, that guide our teams moving forward.

We have the UNI Project currently underway (University Now Initiative), in partnership with the City of Chula Vista and so many other offices/businesses/institutions/local universities/foundations to plan for future industries. The white paper is currently being written; thorough research and community input has been received. UNI Project will identify industries AND need of the future, discover the educational gaps of current and future industries so we may offer those courses and pathways in South County.

SWC currently has our highest summer enrollment ever and our enrollment for fall has already exceeded all previous years. There are only a couple of community college districts in CA that are exceeding pre-pandemic enrollment numbers and I am so proud of that.

We have state of the art technology in many of our programs including Fire, Paramedic, Nursing, Dental and Police Academy programs. We invest in our people and our programs.

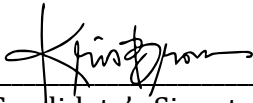
**11. Which individuals or groups have endorsed your candidacy? Please be specific and include an attachment if necessary.**

Current Endorsements:

- Southwestern College Education Association (SCEA) - SWC faculty union
- San Diego County Democratic Party
- San Diego Labor Democratic Club
- Chula Vista Democratic Club
- Coronado Democratic Club
- Latina Democratic Club
- Democratic Woman's Club of San Diego
- SD Progressive Democratic Club
- San Diego Democratic Education Alliance
- SWC Governing Board President Don Dumas

- SWC Trustee Robert Moreno
- BoS Chair Nora Vargas
- IB Mayor Paloma Aguirre
- SD Councilmember Vivian Moreno
- CV Councilmember Jose Preciado
- CV Councilmember Carolina Chavez

*"By signing and submitting this questionnaire, I hereby request the endorsement of the Imperial Beach Democratic Club. I am a Democrat registered to vote in San Diego County. I verify that the information I have provided here is accurate and true."*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Signature

7/10/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please submit the questionnaire no later than NOON JULY 10, 2024 to [imperialbeachdemclub@gmail.com](mailto:imperialbeachdemclub@gmail.com)**