

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

ESL | English as a
Second Language

October 23, 2023

Greetings Los Medanos College Faculty Colleagues,

My name is Paula Gunder. I am a professor and the department chair of our English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and with this information statement highlighting my faculty experience and commitment, I am submitting my name as a candidate for the vacant Academic Senate Vice President position.

I have been at the college since 2007, when I was hired as a program coordinator under our first Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grant, and began working with a team of LMC faculty, managers, and classified educators to expand and improve educational opportunities for Latinx/Latine in our community through our ESL program. At the time, I also began teaching as an adjunct faculty member in the ESL department, and in 2010, I was hired as the full-time ESL faculty member.

I am currently serving my second 2-year term on Academic Senate representing my multi-department constituent group, and I have served as our area's alternate Senate representative for an additional four years.

In addition to my teaching load and chair duties, over the past sixteen years, I have served on the following committees:

- Curriculum Committee
- Teaching & Learning Committee
- Institutional Development for Equity & Access (IDEA)
- Planning Committee
- Local Planning Group (LPG)
- District Professional Development Committee
- Professional Development Advisory Group (PDAC)

Additionally, I served on the following committees that are no longer in existence:

- Basic Skills Initiative Committee (BSI)
- Student Equity Committee
- Student Success and Support Program Committee
- Integrated Planning Committee
- AB705 Working Group

I have held two paid faculty leadership positions: the equity-based Professional Learning Facilitator position and one of the three former BSI oriented program coordinator/lead positions, which I still hold today.

I have also had opportunities to engage with and in numerous state-wide California community college initiatives, networks, and conferences, such as working with the adult education block grant and consortium, the California Community College Success Network (3CSN), the Basic Skills Initiative Leadership Institutes (BSILI), the RP Group's Leading from the Middle Academies and Strengthening Student Success Conferences, the Chancellor's Office Career Development and College Preparation Non-Credit Taskforce, and TheDream.US UndocuAlly Training program.

I am as committed to the service component of our community college faculty role as I am to my teaching and my students learning and lives, I believe in the invaluable role of a strong faculty voice and inclusive shared governance, and I look forward to the professional service, learning, and growth opportunities that exist in being able to take on the position of Academic Senate Vice President at LMC. I will do my best to fulfill the duties of the office and to support you, our students, and the college in so doing.

Thank you,

Paula A. Gunder, Ph.D.