

MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEE VOTER GUIDE

In Association with The League of Women
Voters- Flint Area, Mott Community College
Black Professional Alliance and the Enlighten
and Ignite Committee



DONT FORGET TO VOTE
NOVEMBER 5, 2024





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PROVIDED

MARY DAVIS

- 1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?**
 - 2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?**
 - 3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?**
 - 4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?**
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KENYATTA V. DOTSON

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

I am running for Board of Trustee at Mott Community College because I believe in education being a gateway to successful outcomes. MCC was transformational in my life, helping me to see beyond my circumstances and believe that there was more to life than what I saw and experienced on a day-to-day basis. I want to ensure this same opportunity continues for current and incoming students.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I am qualified for a BOT seat due to 1) being an Alumni of Mott Community College, therefore I have the foundational and historical background as a Flint Resident and student, striving for a better way of life for myself, family, and community. After graduating from MCC, I went on to achieve my Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree. However, my humble beginnings started with Mott Community College. Given my lived experience, skills, and education, I believe my voice, role, and contributions to the MCC Board of Trustees would be a valuable addition; 2) Over the years, I have established strong relationships with community partners, which includes youth and families. Given these connections, I believe I would bring a wealth of knowledge, a new perspective, and a deep understanding to the population served.

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

I would bring over thirty years of community development work, vast knowledge of effective engagement and communication strategies, serve as a connector between the college and community, be an asset in the area of fostering relationships, accessing additional resources, and networking opportunities.



KENYATTA V. DOTSON

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

What is important to know is that I am committed to ensuring the long term success and positive outcomes of students, I take pride in being a strong advocate for education, I would make decisions that have the longevity of the College, students, staff and community in mind. I stand firm on issues of diversity, inclusion, fairness, and equality; serving as a community leader and strong voice, representing the people of Genesee County, who seek the best educational path and opportunities for themselves and family.



ANDY EVERMAN

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

I understand the breath and the depth of the College, I have worked diligently to fulfill the College's mission statement. I stayed abreast of higher education trends enacted through legislation and public policy and continually take opportunities to meet with Trustees from other community colleges across the state.

Additionally, I continually to be informed about the types and quality of our College educational programs. By reading the student, faculty and College publications, I stayed attuned to campus activities and issues. I made it my objective to interact with the faculty, staff and student leaders so as to be aware of their perspectives. The physical plant and maintenance needs of the College are also part of my priorities as Trustee.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I will make it a priority to identify programs and operations at the College which meet a dual standard of efficiency and relevance. Whether educational or non-educational, the College programs must operate within its mandated budget while at the same time, not place further financial burdens on students and their families. This will require patience, innovative planning and effective communications with College leadership, faculty and staff, students, state lawmakers and taxpayers.

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

My commitment to MCC is to work closely with the private sector to make sure programs fit the job market in our new economy. The College has to be very concerned about improving and updating our training programs so that relevant to the Michigan economy. More needs to be done working with the health care sector. We must also be aware that our students must meet transfer requirements as they go from MCC to other colleges and universities.



ANDY EVERMAN

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

The emphasis needs to be on quality classroom instruction and training, as well as being fully transparent to taxpayers. The public deserves to be informed how their tax money is being spent and how it is related to education, training and real jobs. The Board needs to know about all the activity undertaken by the College whether or not the activities are part of the educational programing.

My commitment to Mott Community College is deep and heartfelt. I pledge to continue my efforts to make the College one of the best in the nation.



ANNE FIGUEROA

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

I want to return to the board to help Mott Community College to continue to be the award-winning community college we need here in Genesee College. Mott has impacted every level of our community from at risk youth getting GED or high school diplomas to those choosing an academic path to employers hiring qualified students and workers. We need to continue to listen to our community to give it what it needs not what a few trustees with hidden agendas want to make it!

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I have 6 years serving on the board (2017-2022): 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair of the board. I understand what it takes to be a trustee serving with openness, honesty and civility.

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

I have an undergraduate and graduate degree in education and 30 years in Human Resources. I spent my day learning what the employer needed and finding employees to meet those needs. I have strong business skills understanding financial reports and budgeting. I also serve as a President of a nonprofit Family Promise assisting families avoid homelessness and a current Park Commissioner. All of that experience has taught me to listen and understand different points of view and to work with diverse groups and Individuals.

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

I am a leader who will listen and take the appropriate action to support the students, faculty and community to continue to take Mott Community College into the future.



ARON GERICS

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

To serve the community that I was born and raised in and where I choose to raise my children.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I am a lifelong resident of Flint and Genesee County. I have 15+ years of experience working at Mott Community College from being a program assistant to working in the President's office.

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

I will bring an understanding of the College culture as well as a sound mind to make decisions based on what is best for the College to serve the communities we touch.

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

Mott Community College is not just a job or career for me. I understand the impact the College has on the communities around Genesee County not only as an employee but as a student and a community member.



GAIL L. JOHNSON

MSN,PMHNP-BC, ANP-BC

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

While attending Mott Community College my granddaughter became very active in the various committees and actions groups associated with the college. She began attending the Board of Trustee meetings and would comment on how the board members did not seem to address community concerns. This was very disturbing to her. I began to attend with her and I too noticed there seems to be a disconnect between the board and the concerns of the audience in attendance.

As a Trustee of Mott Community College one is entrusted with upholding the mission of the college which is to provide high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services that cultivate student success and individual development to improve the overall quality of life in a multicultural community. To do so a Trustee must listen to the community, acknowledge their concerns and work collaboratively with the community to build and maintain Mott's reputation for excellence. I feel this is a serious fault of the present board, and in the long run will not uphold MCC's mission statement. The board needs to change, and I want to be a part of the change.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I am qualified because I care about the presence and reputation of Mott Community College. I am willing to give my talents and time to perpetuate a continual standard of excellence at Mott Community College.



GAIL L. JOHNSON

MSN,PMHNP-BC, ANP-BC

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

I will bring what I believe to be the characteristics of a good board member. The characteristic of good judgement, good organizational and administrative skills, and the ability to understand and communicate well with others. The integrity to always do my absolute best.

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about me is that as a board member I will listen and respond to them.





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JENNA ROSE MARDEN

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CANDICE MILLER

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VIRGINIA A. SEPAMAK

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JEFFREY SWANSON

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RICHARD WAGONLANDER

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AMANDA WARES

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

I am invested in the wellbeing and sustainability of MCC and feel that I can truly help move the College forward in the best possible way for the students and community that MCC serves.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I gained an insurmountable deal of knowledge about the full financial picture of MCC during the 7 years I served as a buyer in the MCC Purchasing Department and the 5 years I spent as a union leader. I am well suited to advise on the financial decisions of MCC because I fully understand the steps that should be taken and the impact that financial decisions have on MCC's students, faculty, and staff. During my 10 years as a staff member at MCC, I was invited by the past president of the College to participate in special committees designed to understand the current and future needs for sustainability of MCC. I also attended yearly conferences to further develop my expertise in the field of public purchasing, grant fund management, and union leadership. As part of my current role as an IT Spend Management Specialist at Fluke Corporation, I manage a multimillion dollar budget for Fluke IT Commercial Technology and all associated contracts to each expense.

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

My experience as a former staff member at the College allows me to understand everything that is going on at MCC from proper parliamentary procedures at the Board meetings to the extreme importance of understanding each union Collective Bargaining Agreement at campus and truly caring about what the College is negotiation with its dedicated union workers.

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

My career path took me in a new direction from MCC, but it didn't take away my passion or drive for MCC to be successful for another 100 years. I am unequivocally dedicated to the success of Mott Community College. As a Trustee, I will make sure that the voices that are seldom heard, those of the students and employees, are recognized.



ANDREW WATCHORN

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

First, Mott Community College is a vital part of this community and should be allowed to fulfill its dual mission of increasing skill/productivity and helping to retain talent in its service areas. I understand this value personally. I took my first class at Mott in 1993 at Davison High School. I used that course to get college credit that helped me to pursue two degrees in less time. I'm also a business owner in downtown Flint. That business has employed 5 MCC trained individuals in graphic arts and business. Flint City T-Shirts would not be able to do it's business without MCC talent. Think about the number of businesses in Genesee County that are enhanced because MCC is serving its primary purpose—Dentist's offices, Electricians, Restaurants, etc. Third, as a member of the community, I know that we keep good people in the area because they can interact with Mott as an excellent place to have a career or gathering place. Finally, Mott Community College is the first post-secondary education experience for so many in our community. I've been at local High School events where more than half of the graduating seniors are headed to Mott next.

Mott is too important to mess around with.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

Mott Community College, in fulfilling its core mission, should have a Board of Trustees that gives advice to the executive staff based on expertise, based both on community involvement and coming from their professional background. I serve on several local boards and/or advisory boards, I am a local business owner, and I have roots in both the City of Flint and the county. All of these parts of who I am have helped me develop skills that will be valuable on the board.



ANDREW WATCHORN

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

I have worked for 20+ years alongside university staff, professors and administrators to help further the mission of hundreds of Colleges and Universities between Flint Michigan, the Eastern US, Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Finally, I am a teaching faculty member at Kettering University in Mechatronics and am pursuing my PhD in Engineering Education at Purdue University. This experience will help me to bring expertise to the board that will help the college manage many of the changes that Mott will face in the next few years—including but not limited to:

- Attracting and Retaining Students
- Managing Remote Learning
- Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Student Outcomes
- Faculty Excellence – Attraction, Engagement and Retention
- Mission and Vision supporting the Community's Future Path
- Holding the Executive Staff Accountable to Community Needs
- Sustainably Operating the College

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

I have, over the past 20 years, invested much of my time and energy into helping move projects forward in support of the City of Flint and Genesee County. Guiding those activities has been two ideas: Increase skill/value in the community and retain the talent/value you create. Those two principles will guide my decision making as a member of the MCC Board of Trustees member. On a less serious note, my two degrees are in Engineering-Physics and Music Education Choral. I did my student teaching at Flint Central H.S. in 2000 and now have a sight line from my house to that building.



PERCI WHITMORE

1. Why do you want to be a Trustee at Mott Community College (MCC)?

As a Trustee I want to establish a healthy and trustworthy connection with the faculty, staff and student body at Mott Community College

As unemployment and the economy shifts our highschoolers and college students need to be competitive in the job selection market and I believe through building off of MCC current practices we can help approve and provide more support in the workforce and economic department.

Currently the board is predominately all white and I would like to trailblaze the next generation of community activists and leaders to take action in their education.

Create an accessible policy for board meetings to provide open conversation with community leaders and partners to ensure the effectiveness of community engagement requirements towards the mission of the college

I would like to create a policy that enhances and provides more opportunities for the diverse population on Main Campus.

2. Why are you qualified to be a Board of Trustee (BoT) at MCC?

I have served the genesee county area in education for 8 plus years ranging from Career exploration, job placement, college enrollment and post secondary education

I live in Genesee county specifically in Flint where main campus resides which plays a factor in perspective of what the college needs

MCC alumni 2019

MMC graduate 2019

Umflint 2022 BBA

Flint based business owner since 2019 to current helping young adults from 16 to 25 years of age gain knowledge in their nontraditional career field and creating steps to achieve this goals

Born and Raised In Flint Michigan



PERCI WHITMORE

3. What unique perspective and characteristics will you bring to the MCC BoT?

As a Mott Middle High School Alumni I was taught to go
As a recent alumni of Mott I have experienced the changes that Covid has brought to the learning experience of the students and how the students coming from highschool desire in person classes, Staff desire to work flexible schedules and workers and corporate partners desire from the college effective communication. In Response As a trustee I believe taking these perspectives with the board to create a somewhat consensus to make the college more effective for students learning and growth in selected goals.

As a recent employee of Mott Workforce about 3 years ago I have the advantage to hear the concerns and understand the colleges language, heart and mission for its students and I believe that's what separates those who need to be on the board and those who do not

4. What is most important for the students, employees, and the community to know about you?

The most important thing that our students, employees and community need to know about me is that I just care about the heart of Flint Michigan and their educational system. But because I have gone through this process of Mott Community College and employment at Workforce it propelled me and my constituents ahead and ready for quality education. But now we have an overqualified generation that has to settle for low end jobs due to the lack of quality career opportunities in Flint "supposedly". But there are quality jobs her in

Flint Michigan and with Motts resources and connections we can pipeline our students to these pipelines to create not just high level learners but workers as well. I struggle to find employment in the city of Flint even with my qualifications and high standing experiences due to my own qualifications at my early age. So maybe this is a chance to make a big step for the next generation of workers.

All Candidates were emailed the four questions on Friday, August 2 to the email they filed with the Clerk.

Please join us for our
Meet & Greet: MCC Board of Trustee
Candidates

October 24, 2024

6:00-7:30 pm

Gloria Coles Flint Public Library- Friends Room



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