

**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE**  
**JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT-LARGE**

**Name:** Val Baul

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Sharon Yelton

**Occupation / Place of Employment** (25 words): Drivers License Coordinator For State of Kansas Department of Revenue, former paralegal with a Masters in Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution

**Most Recent Political/Community Experience** (25 words):

Criminal Justice Reform Task Force for Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity Chairperson Justice Matters Restorative Justice in Schools Committee Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board

**1. Why are you uniquely qualified to serve on the JCCC Board of Trustees and why are you seeking this office?**

The most unique attribute I have as a candidate is that I graduated from Johnson County Community College. I was a single mom working two jobs seven days a week when I attended JCCC for early childhood education classes, even going on a service project to Las Pintas Mexico to do a bilingual week with the children. I have a unique set of skills as a former paralegal turned mediator that understands how to collaborate with multiple viewpoints to achieve mutually beneficial solutions to assist with the contentious relationship between faculty, staff, students, and senior leadership.

**2. If elected, what would be your top three agenda items as a Trustee that you would work towards for the betterment of the College and the education it provides?**

My first priority is to change the name of the Carlsen Center due to the controversial resignation of the former President amid sexual harassment allegations. My second priority is to make sure the Board of Trustees is transparent with their decision making process. I want to make sure faculty and staff are involved before decisions are made because even if people disagree, they are more likely to accept the outcome if they feel heard in a fair process. My third priority would be to make better disability access to the dental hygiene program.

**3. With respect to paying for the cost of educating the College's students, where do you stand regarding tuition increases vs. mill levy increases and what is the appropriate way to balance those?**

I think Johnson County citizens are double taxed by paying for the community college through their taxes and then having to pay for their education and children's education. Raising student

tuition puts the burden on students and parents rather than expecting the business community to pay taxes to fund the community college that educates their workforce. Cutting the mill levy disproportionately helps wealthy developers rather than individual taxpayers and I would like to keep the mill levy steady and offer virtually free JCCC to residents of the county.

**4. Kansas is experiencing all-time low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers, especially in technical and skilled trades. What role should Johnson County Community College play with regard to workforce readiness, locally and statewide?**

Johnson County Community College needs to first worry about their internal workforce as the 5th largest employer in Overland Park. JCCC is already an economic driver in workforce readiness, locally and statewide, with great programs such as the paralegal studies and dental hygiene programs that provide qualified workers for attorneys and dentists. These programs allow for students to learn a trade or begin a career with only two years of college, which needs to be readily available to students that may not be able to afford a four year degree.

**5. What do you see as the key aspects of the JCCC's relationship with our Universities? With the other Kansas community colleges?**

JCCC can partner with all the universities to transfer credits for students that want to get their college career started here. We should be working together to help students in Kansas get the best education they possibly can anyway, anyhow. The focus should be the students and what is best for them. If I am elected, I will make sure to include students in the decision making process to figure out what is best for them.

**6. What is your vision for the college ten years from now?**

I envision a community college on the cutting edge just like 50 years ago. The world is changing rapidly and new industries like cannabis and hemp could be the sustainable crops we are looking for to move forward. I think JCCC could be a trendsetter being a free community college that has cutting edge programs in cannabis and hemp while serving the growing Johnson County residents as an economic driver.