

Jo Co Community College Board of Trustees At-Large 2021

Response ID:11 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Martha Davis

2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8389 Somerset Drive

City/State/Zip : Prairie Village

3. Phone Number

5738216066

4. Email Address

martharosedavis1983@gmail.com

5. Campaign Website

www.davisjccc.com

2. Candidate Background

6. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Martha is an adjunct professor at Washburn University and an award-winning journalist. Martha previously held various executive level positions in the utilities sector, including Evergy.

7. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

Leadership Missouri Program through the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Class of 2017).

8. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

Previously managed a \$1.3 Billion budget for the MO Senate Appropriations Committee; Board Member & Officer, Missouri Association of Natural Gas Operators (MANGO); Advisory Board Member, University of MO Financial Research Institute (FRI); MO Governor's Comprehensive State Energy Plan working groups and various the MO Energy Development Association (MEDA) committees.

3. Issues and Policy

9. What would be your top three agenda priorities as a Trustee you would work toward for the betterment of the College and the education it provides? (100 words or less)

1. Continued strengthening of relationships between the local business community and the community college so as to continue teaching students relevant skills that are needed in the workforce, particularly in technical trades.
2. Affordable tuition, transparency and good stewardship of public funds are all very important values to me. The future of our community literally depends on it.
3. JCCC plays an important role in our community by enabling students from all backgrounds to pursue the American dream. Freedom of speech, liberty and teaching students how to think, rather than what to think are all very important values to me.

10. 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 interests? (100 words or less)

While this question asks about preferred ways of increasing revenue for JCCC, I believe the county tax base is already in a growth position. In this scenario, I would first look at decreasing expenditures prior to examining ways to increase revenues. I am not in favor of mill levy increases.

11. Kansas is experiencing 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 development, locally and statewide? (100 words or less)

As mentioned previously, a primary role of JCCC should be workforce development. The continued strengthening of relationships and partnerships between the business community and the community college is extremely important so as to continue teaching students relevant skills that are needed in the workforce, particularly in technical trades.

12. What do you see as key aspects of JCCC's coordination with high schools, universities, and other post-secondary educational institutions? (100 words or less)

JCCC should play a key role in the communication and coordination of benchmarks to meet the business community's workforce development needs. Students should be prepared to continue their education when they come to JCCC and also when they transfer out, as well as to successfully fulfill job requirements as members of the workforce.

13. What is your vision for the College ten years from now? (100 words or less)

My vision is that the college continue to provide a valuable, relevant, and rigorous education for students. JCCC should also be a key enabler for Kansas economic and workforce development.

14. Why do you believe you are uniquely qualified to serve on the JCCC Board of Trustees and why are you seeking this office? (100 words or less)

In addition to previous public service contributions and being a business leader, I am also an adjunct professor at Washburn University and a doctoral candidate at the University of Denver. When my family moved to the greater KC area due to a job relocation, we picked Johnson County to live due to various quality of living aspects, including education. My eldest son was recently a student at JCCC and I was very impressed with the affordable, rigorous and relevant education he received. I believe my unique educational, leadership and public service skills position me to continue supporting the JCCC mission.