

## Vice President Candidate Statement, Monica Ohkubo, Spring 2021

Dear Senate Colleagues,

I appreciate your consideration of my re-election to get us on track with our election cycle. I have enjoyed this last semester getting started as Vice President. As an LGBTQ faculty member of color with a doctorate in Health Science, I bring both EDI knowledge as well as lived experience to the table. I am student-centered, passionate, collaborative and have leadership experience at the department, District, local, state and regional levels. I bring depth and breadth of experience as an allied, instructional and CE faculty member who has served on many committees over my last 15 years at SRJC.

This moment requires leaders who can question business as usual, who are not afraid to be uncomfortable in essential conversations, who facilitate necessary and workable solutions, and who are willing to constantly learn, grow, make mistakes, admit mistakes and correct mistakes. The pandemic, racial injustice and budget concerns have us sitting at a crossroads as an institution and a Senate. Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion must be centered as we progress our healing.

I believe if we question the status quo, focus on our students, move forward collegially and transparently while working hard to create positive change for our students, our faculty and our institution, we will come out of these together, in a brighter place for all. I hope I have your vote to continue beyond this initial semester as your Vice President.

With appreciation,

Monica Ohkubo