San Carlos Apache College

The Higher Education Institution of the San Carlos Apache Tribe



DATE: June 11, 2024

TO: San Carlos Apache College

CC: San Carlos Apache Tribal Departments and Entities

FROM: Durena Thompson, Board Chairperson, Board of Regents, San Carlos Apache College

RE: Announcement of Presidential Finalists

The San Carlos Apache College (SCAC) Board of Regents is pleased to announce that we have selected three (3) finalists for the presidency of SCAC. We would like to thank the entire College and Tribal community for your continued interest and support in the process to identify our next President. I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank each member of the Presidential Search Committee for their insight, dedication, and effort.

The San Carlos Apache College Presidential finalists are (in alphabetical order):





Mr. Raymond Burns has over twenty years of experience working in tribal colleges. Currently, Raymond is the Tribal Partnerships Manager at North Dakota State University Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, ND. Previously, Mr. Burns served as Vice President of Student Success at Red Lake Nation College, MN. He served as the President of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (now Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa University), WI and the President of Leech Lake Tribal College, MN; in which he led both institutions from probation status with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), to good standing. He's also worked with Northwest Indian College; Raymond's career in Indian Education and Tribal Colleges has been intrinsically intertwined. Mr. Burns earned a Master of Education from Capella University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Dartmouth University. Raymond is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreille Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Wafa Hozien, Ph.D., has over thirty years of experience in higher education leadership positions. Currently, Dr. Hozien is the Dean of Graduate Studies of Navajo Technical University. Dr. Hozien has held numerous leadership roles in higher education and her contributions to Tribal colleges have been particularly impactful, where she has played a crucial role in ensuring accreditation, developing curriculum, and conducting program reviews. She led national and regional successful higher education accreditation processes, showcasing her expertise and dedication to quality education. Dr. Hozien has earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education Leadership from Pennsylvania State University, a Masters of Arts in Education Administration from Seton Hall University, a Masters of Arts in Political Science from Rutgers University, and a Bachelors of Arts in History from William Paterson University.

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Linda Sue Warner, Ph.D., has extensive experience and knowledge in indigenous pedagogy using native ways of knowing as the primary framework and is currently the Special Assistant to the President on Tribal Affairs at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, OK. Previously, Dr. Warner served as the President of Haskell Indian Nations University, KS. She has over fifty years of experience working with American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian peoples. Dr. Warner is extensively published with over two hundred fifty articles, presentations, technical reports, books and book chapters that explore processes linked to cultural knowledge bases and pedagogy. Dr. Warner earned a Doctor of Philosophy in General Administration from the University of Oklahoma; a Master's in Education in Administration from Pennsylvania State University; a Bachelors of Arts in Language Arts Education from Northeastern State University and an Associate of Arts from Northeastern A&M Junior College, OK. Dr. Warner is a member of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma.

Public forums will take place the week of June 17, 2024, and each candidate will participate in a 1-hour forum. We invite and encourage everyone to participate in the open forums. Forums will be made accessible to all faculty, administrators, staff, students, and the general public. There will be a brief introduction of each candidate, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Forums will be conducted in-person in. All who attend will be asked to complete a feedback form and the completed forms will be given to the Board of Regents for their review.

Open Forum Schedule:

Monday, June 17, 2024

Mr. Raymond Burns: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Tribal Administration Council Chamber

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Dr. Wafa Hozien: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Tribal Administration Council Chamber

Friday, June 21, 2024

Dr. Linda Sue Warner: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Tribal Administration Council Chamber

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We are looking forward to a successful completion of the presidential search process. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to our ACCT Search Consultants:

- Cindy Lopez, ACCT Search Consultant, cindyelopez000@gmail.com, (405) 255-2566 (mobile)
- Julie Golder, J.D., Vice President of Search Services, jgolder@acct.org or (202) 384-5816 (mobile)