

COC Evaluation Team Members

Team member photo	Team member bio
	<p><b>Ron Taylor</b> is Superintendent/President of Merced College. He has also served as Superintendent/President of Feather River College in Quincy, California, and as chief instructional officer at Chabot College and Reedley College. He holds a Ph.D. in English with Linguistic Emphasis from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his teaching career in Kyoto, Japan, and returned to the United States to teach at the University of Virginia. He was also an English instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, where he subsequently served as Department Chair and instructional dean. Dr. Taylor has extensive experience with institutional planning and improving institutional quality, with a focus on student learning. He has served on the Community College League of California’s Commission on the Future, and he has been part of several accreditation teams, and has previously chaired a site visit.</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Lorraine Prinsky</b> has served as a Trustee at the Coast Community College District for six years. She has held many offices as Trustee on the Coast Community College District Board and is the Board’s immediate past-president. Prior to her election to the Coast Board, she taught sociology at CSU Fullerton for 38 years.</p> <p>Dr. Prinsky received her Ph.D. from UCI and BA from UCLA. She has authored numerous professional publications, presentations and grants on the subjects of delinquency, law and public policy, service learning and urban studies. She is trained in Interest-Based Bargaining.</p>



**Thom Watkins** started off life as an Electrical Engineer in private industry. Spent time in the U.S, Air Force in Research and Development, Communications, and the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon leaving the Air Force, he earned an MBA in Financial Management. As faculty of Solano Community College, he was a member of the School of Business and taught classes in the Business, Business Math, Marketing, Management, and Insurance Programs. Thom also taught Distance Ed classes and was a member of the Distance Ed Committee. He served on the Academic Senate for over twelve years; and during that period, he also served as Senate President.

As a member of Solano College's Financial and Budget Planning Committee, Thom fully participated in the Budgeting process and program evaluation and review. He was a member of the original Student Learning Outcomes Committee. Thom is presently the Interim Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education.



**Vivian Varela** is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology and Distance Education Coordinator at Mendocino College. She earned an AA from Taft College, a BA in Sociology from Chico State, an MA in Sociology at CSU, Bakersfield and an MS in Education-Online Teaching and Learning at CSU, Hayward. She currently serves as a chairperson for Community Colleges in the Pacific Sociological Association. She is also a certified Etudes (LMS) trainer. Vivian has taught as an online adjunct at Taft College and for Los Angeles Valley College. Prior to coming to Mendocino College in 2007, Vivian had a 20 year career as a classified employee at Taft College with the last position as a web technician providing tech support for the distance learning program at Taft College along with writing & maintaining the distance learning website.



**Dr. Celine Pinet** holds a Ph.D. in Architecture and postdoctoral studies in Executive Leadership. She has been active on several boards and presented monthly to Board of Trustees. Dr. Pinet acquired eight years of senior administrative experience in the California Community Colleges, including serving as Accreditation Liaison Officer at two colleges, in preparation for ACCJC self-studies. She spearheaded successful Midterm Report and 100% compliance in critical areas including program reviews, planning and resource allocation and student learning, with sensitivities to student equity. She organized an ACCJC regional workshop on Integrated Planning, mission and goals. She also played key roles in online learning and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Her experience includes 15 years of teaching at West Valley College in Applied Arts and Sciences, at Ohio University and at other institutions, as well as serving as Academic Senator, and on multiple other College and District Councils. Her experience spans a capture of 10% growth in ‘full time equivalent students’ (FTES) in six months as well as navigating through difficult fiscal exigencies, bringing in millions from alternative sources, and 25 notable grants and awards of distinction.



**Aaron D. McVean** is Dean of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) at Skyline College in the San Mateo Community College District, where he also serves as the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). He was previously the Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Lake Tahoe Community College, where he also served as the interim VP of Administrative Services and interim Executive Director of the college Foundation. He holds an MA in Academic Research – Psychology from Humboldt State University and has taught as an adjunct instructor, both in the classroom and via distance education. Mr. McVean has an extensive background in research, planning, and program evaluation, with a focus on improving outcomes in student success and achievement. He has also served on multiple accreditation visiting teams.



**Kale Braden** is a Professor of Theatre at Cosumnes River College, a position that he has held for the past sixteen years. At Cosumnes River College, he has served on multiple committees and task forces including as a department chair; curriculum chair; academic senator; local senate vice-president and president; as well as the president of the Los Rios Community College District Senate. He is currently serving on the executive team of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges as a North representative. He holds an M.F.A. in Theatrical Design from the University of Hawaii and an Ed.D. from Argosy University in Educational Leadership. This is the second accreditation team that he has served on.



**Tim Karas** joined the College of Alameda (COA) in July 2014 as Vice-President of Instruction. Prior to COA Tim was Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts (2009-2014) and Director of Library Services (2005-2009) at Mission College. Tim was a tenured faculty member at the College of San Mateo.

During the past 10 year he has served on a half-dozen accreditation site visit teams. He currently serves as Executive Board President of the Council of Chief Librarians: California Community Colleges.

His educational background includes a Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Humboldt State University.



**Michael Graves** is a retired Colonel who served 24 years on active duty in the U.S. Army. He taught at UCLA for three years where he was both a Professor and a Department Chair. He is beginning his 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at College of the Siskiyous as a tenured Faculty member. He is the President of his college Academic Senate. He has served on two Accreditation Teams. The first was “College of the Desert” where he was the lead/author on Standard IV. The second was “Windward Community College” where he was the lead/author on Standard IV.



**MaryBeth Benvenuti** is the Business & Administrative Director of College of Alameda. She has also served as the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the Peralta Community College District and as the Business & Administrative Director at Laney College. She has also served in finance roles at Mills College in Oakland California and at University of California Berkeley. She holds a B.S. degree in accounting from Mississippi University for Women and a M. Ed in Postsecondary & Higher Education Administration from Argosy University. She has served on one visiting team as the Standard IV lead. She has an extensive educational finance and computing background, as well as varied experience maintaining data systems in PeopleSoft and SunGard Banner integrated software programs.



**Audrey Yamagata-Noji** has served as the Vice President, Student Services at Mt. San Antonio College for 18 years. Additionally, she is an adjunct faculty member in the California State University, Fullerton Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Audrey received her doctorate from Claremont Graduate University and her master's in counseling and bachelor's in psychology from California State University, Long Beach. Active in the community, Audrey is a board member for Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) and the National Asian Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC), an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC). Annually, Audrey co-facilitates a higher education leadership development program for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Audrey is also elected to the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education and serves on the Board of Directors for the California School Boards Association (CSBA). Previously, Audrey has served on five AACJC community college accreditation visitation teams.



**Dr. Sandra Caldwell** began serving as the Reedley College president on July 1, 2013. Under her direction, Reedley College fulfilled accreditation requirements and implemented standing accreditation, student success, and student learning outcomes committees focused on continuous quality improvement. Dr. Caldwell also served as a college and university accreditation peer reviewer and site visitor for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association prior to working at Reedley College. Before coming to Reedley College she served as the associate vice president for planning and improvement at Western Wyoming Community College since 2011 and before that worked for 10 years at Paris (Texas) Junior College as quality assurance and institutional effectiveness chairperson, mathematics chair, and mathematics faculty. Caldwell earned a doctoral degree in supervision, curriculum, and instruction in higher education with emphasis in community colleges, from Texas A&M University-Commerce, a master's degree in statistics from Oklahoma State University, and a bachelor's in mathematics education from Oklahoma State University. She grew up in a rural area and got her own start in higher education at a rural-based community college, which served as her inspiration for working in community colleges.



**Ron Little** began his tenure as Vice President of Administrative Services for the Ohlone Community College District on May 1, 2012. In addition to Budget and Finance, he leads the college's Bond/Construction Programs; Campus Police; Facilities and Grounds; IT; Purchasing; and Risk Management departments for the College. Prior to joining Ohlone Mr. Little served as Chief Financial Officer for the San Diego Unified School District, the second largest K-12 district in the state with a general fund budget of over \$1 billion and bond programs of over \$2 billion. While at San Diego, Mr. Little also served on the San Diego County Treasury Oversight Committee, a team charged with overseeing the investment of over \$5 billion of public assets. Mr. Little received an M.B.A. , with a concentration in finance, from the University of San Francisco; a B.A. in English Literature from the University of California at Irvine; a post graduate certificate from the University of Southern California; and a Chief Business Official Certificate from the California Association of School Business Officials. He has called San Francisco home for the past dozen years.



**Marie Bruley** has served as a faculty member in mathematics at Merced College for nine years. She has served as her college Academic Senate President and as chair of various shared governance committees and Academic Senate committees including the Standing Accreditation Committee. Her educational background includes a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University Stanislaus, a Masters in Mathematics from California State University Sacramento, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from California State University Stanislaus. She has contributed to the writing of her college accreditation self-study, midterm reports, and subsequent follow up reports.