

Blinn College Board Candidate Questionnaire

Washington County Chamber

1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time?
 1. I decided to run for the Blinn College Board of Trustees because I felt a call to run when I realized that the seat in the precinct in which I lived would not be contested. The Blinn College Board of Trustee positions should be contested in each election. As a qualified candidate residing within the precinct, I felt led to run for the position to use my knowledge and background in service to my community.

1. What key competencies do you feel you possess to be a board trustee? Briefly describe your background in financial analysis, leadership, effective communication, understanding of education system issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives, and consensus building.
 1. As a former Registrar and Dean of Enrollment at two community colleges in Texas, I was integral in developing and maintaining budgets for the areas I oversaw. Those budgets supported recruitment activities for the college, new student orientation activities, graduation activities, and professional development for multiple areas. I have also completed several community college leadership programs where courses focused on higher education finances. As a part of my work experience, I was responsible for the state of Texas reporting directly linked to state funding. I was also responsible for being well-versed on legislative policy to ensure the college complied with legislative mandates. I also served on multiple strategic planning committees and was involved in developing various strategic plans at the three colleges where I worked. I developed enrollment management plans for both colleges and led those plans. Finally, one of my strengths is active listening. It is essential to listen and understand before reacting and taking action. This strength has allowed me to work well with others and to find common ground when actions and decisions need to be taken.

1. What is your vision for post-secondary education in this community?
 1. Post-secondary education in Washington County should do two things; support the community and progress the community. How does post-secondary education support the community? Post-secondary Education enhances the well-being of the community. Well-being is enhanced by exposing the community to diverse activities and cultures that may not otherwise be exposed. An example of this is the theatre activities at Blinn College. These shows and programs bring a diversity of culture to Brenham that expose the community to different cultures, and languages and explore different ways of seeing the world. Post-secondary education progresses the community by not only enhancing the well-being of the community members but by having a positive impact on the economy which it serves. That positive impact comes in the form of training, increased knowledge, and goodwill that a college provides.

1. How do you feel Blinn College impacts the local economy? How can the Blinn Board of Trustees make a positive impact on local economic growth?
 1. Blinn College is one of the largest employers in Brenham. That alone is a massive contributor to the economy of Washington County. However, Blinn has other impacts on the economy of Washington County. In 2019 the Texas Comptroller's office published a report that stated individuals with some college earned an average of \$8,393 more annually than high school graduates. An increase in earnings of Washington County residents positively impacts the local economy by increasing the spending potential of its residents. Blinn allows residents to receive college credit and training at a low tuition rate to help improve their earning potential. Blinn College provides an excellent return on investment for any resident of Washington County and the surrounding service area. As a Trustee, I can ensure that Blinn continues to provide flexibility in course and program offerings that allow not only traditional aged students to attend college but to facilitate flexible learning modalities for individuals wanting to learn a new trade, receive training to advance in their job, start a new business, or whatever meets their needs. As a Trustee, I can be a champion for initiatives that allow Blinn to offer programs that meet the needs of the economy of Washington County.

1. Are there any other comments you would like to make?
 1. Running an election campaign takes a village when you are a mom and wife, have a demanding full-time job, and are active in the community. It takes a village. I cannot express my thanks enough to those campaigning for me. I had yet to learn what it meant to do something like this or the challenges I would face. The support I have garnered over the past two months has been immeasurable and win