Voters’ Pamphlet

May 2, 2024
Thank you to this year’s Nominating Committee members:
Doug Mah, Chair (South Puget Sound Community College Trustee)
Wendy Bohlke, Member (Whatcom Community College Trustee)
Wilma Cartagena, Member (Wenatchee Valley College Trustee)
Pretrina Mullins, Member (Centralia College Trustee)
Wally Webster, Member (Edmonds College Trustee)
Note from ACT Nominating Committee Chair Doug Mah

The following pages contain candidate bios and statements from nominees for the 2024-25 ACT Board of Directors and nominees for the 2024-25 ACT Nominating Committee. A request for additional nominees were solicited via email on February 23, 2023. The members of the Nominating Committee are pleased to offer the following slate of candidates and look forward to continuing strong trustee leadership in the coming year.

Nominating Committee duties and responsibilities, excerpted from the Bylaws, are below for reference.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2. NOMINATIONS

Prior to March 1, the Nominating Committee will notify all trustees in writing that it is seeking nomination suggestions. Any trustee may recommend a nominee. To support the system-wide mission to lead with equity, our primary commitment is to ensure a pool of nominees from all historically underrepresented groups, such as Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color, with a goal to represent the broad diversity within our student population and our communities. Formal nominations will also be made at the annual business meeting. Nominations from the floor will be permitted prior to the elections.

Nominees must be present or have expressed in writing their desire to accept the nomination for the position to which they have been nominated.

No member shall be elected to, or perform the duties of, more than one elected position.

This year’s Nominating Committee is proud to present the slate of candidates as listed on the following pages for the 2024-25 ACT Board of Directors and the 2024-25 Nominating Committee.
ACT President-Elect Candidate

WENDY BOHLKE
Whatcom Community College


Statement: I appreciate the importance of having a strong association for college trustees in order to effectively advocate to the legislature and others for support and recognition of community and technical colleges in this state. I was born in this state, and was educated in the Prosser School District before attending the University of Washington in the early 1970’s. Like many students coming from small towns, I was rather overwhelmed with the idea of going to a university with 10 times the population of my town, but I worked hard and made it through in four years. What I know now is that having the CTC system in place made and makes it more possible for many students to go to college to meet their needs and achieve their dreams. Lack of paths to citizenship and fully engaging in educational opportunities continues inequities that have existed in our state for too many years. I’m really tired of it and want to work with my trustee peers to advocate for higher education for all those who present themselves to our colleges as wanting to enroll.

Having served as an assistant attorney general for over 30 years and traveling around the state a great deal for court and meetings has given me a good understanding of how diverse - and how similar - situations are in the state for our colleges and their students. I look forward to continuing to serve ACT in the future.

The association’s adoption of orientation and education opportunities for new and seasoned trustees is stupendous, especially given our small (but very competent staff), due in main part by finding qualified speaker/educators help us become effective trustee advocates.

I would enjoy working with Trustee Ortega and others serving ACT in carrying out its mission.

I regret being unable to attend the state meeting in May but have long-standing plans to travel with my husband and see our grandchildren who live in Switzerland. Family is my priority, as I know it is for all our members.

Wendy Bohlke
Trustee
Whatcom Community College
ACT Treasurer Candidate

GLENN JOHNSON
Community Colleges of Spokane

Biography: Initially appointed February 2018 as trustee of Spokane Community Colleges and reappointed to 2027. For the last two years, Glenn served as ACT secretary and prior to that, volunteered as legislative co-chair for two years. He was first elected Mayor of Pullman in 2003 and served for five terms and concluded 20 years of service at the end of 2023. During that time, he was elected to the board of the Association of Washington Cities and was president of that organization. He has also served on the board of the Employee Benefit Trust of AWC, MRSC, the state Transportation Improvement Board, and the Washington State Association of Broadcasters. He is professor emeritus from Washington State University and taught in the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. He holds a Ph.D. and is a proud graduate of a community college and was an adjunct professor at a community college while he managed several radio stations in Sacramento.

Statement: Thank you for considering me for ACT Treasurer in this election. It has been a privilege to serve as Secretary of ACT for the past two years and on the ACT board, and prior to that, worked two years as the ACT legislative co-chair. ACT is an outstanding organization with a great director in Kim Tanaka and an excellent board. If you vote for me, I promise to continue to work hard and collaboratively for you as a trustee and for our colleges, using my experience as a former mayor, a professor, and my work in private industry to make the best possible decisions on behalf of our colleges and our vital mission in the state.

Glenn A. Johnson
Community Colleges of Spokane
REBECCA CHOI CHAN  
Shoreline Community College  

Biography: Appointed June 2021. Rebecca Chan is a licensed CPA and Labor Efficiency Manager at Providence St. Joseph Health, with more than 15 years of healthcare finance experience. She earned a bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration in accounting from the University of Washington, where she was active with Asian American groups on campus. Previously, she was employed at non-profit Student Loan Finance Association. In 2019, Rebecca was appointed to a partial term on the King County Women's Advisory Board, District 1. She is now serving her first full 3-year team on the advisory board. In 2021, Rebecca and her husband were awarded PTA Lifetime Membership for recognition of significant contribution to the development and growth of the Cascade K-8 PTSA.

Statement: Rebecca Chan is a licensed CPA and Labor Efficiency Manager at Providence St. Joseph Health, with almost 20 years of healthcare finance experience. She earned a bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration in accounting from the University of Washington.

Rebecca’s hometown is Vancouver, WA. She attended Clark College as a Running Start student. Her maternal grandfather was a paper son who bravely came forward during amnesty in the 1960s to apply for his family to come to the United States from Hong Kong. The family fled communist China due to their social-economic status. Rebecca's grandfather worked for the Portland Fish Company in Astoria processing salmon eggs for shipment to Japan. Her father was a teacher in Hong Kong where education and teachers are highly regarded. Full biography: [https://www.shoreline.edu/about-shoreline/board/r-chan.aspx](https://www.shoreline.edu/about-shoreline/board/r-chan.aspx)

She has participated in ACT sponsored conferences, Trustee Tuesdays and the ACT Trustees of Color Affinity Group. Rebecca currently serves as Shoreline Community College's board chair. Her service started in June 2021 with the president's hiring committee. ACT conferences have been invaluable especially during a pandemic appointment. It would be Rebecca's honor and privilege to serve ACT so trustees can develop skills on to better advocate for students and colleges.

Rebecca Chan, CPA  
Board Chair, Trustee (She/Her/Hers)
PAULA ARNO MARTINEZ
Wenatchee Valley College

Attorney/Owner, Arno Martinez Law, PLLC. Former Staff Attorney, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo; Associate Attorney, Rios & Cruz, P.S.; Staff Attorney, NW Immigrant Rights Project. Bachelor's Degree, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio; Juris Doctorate, Texas Southern Univ. Affiliations: National Pres., Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc; Latino, a Bar Assn.

Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the position of ACT Secretary. I have served as a trustee for Wenatchee Valley College since 2020 and have served as ACT Member-At-Large for the last year. I have benefited greatly from the training and development opportunities provided by ACT and am eager to give back to the organization that has given me so much.

All of our institutions are unique, but we all face the same challenges with enrollment and funding. It is critical that we develop trustees who are capable of helping navigate these challenges. During my time as ACT Member-At-Large I have been able to participate in the New Trustee Orientation and as a member of the Education Committee. I found these experiences to be valuable and wish to continue my work on the ACT board.

My strong ties to my community and passion for service are the driving force behind my desire to serve as ACT Secretary. I currently serve on the Wenatchee Museum and Cultural Center Board of Trustees, Wenatchee Pride Board, and the Latino/a Bar Association of Washington.

Thank-you,
Paula Arno Martinez
Wenatchee Valley College
ACT Member-at-Large Candidate

LOUISE CHERNIN
Seattle Colleges

Biography: Appointed Aug 2015; Reappointed October 2019. Board Chair 2017-2018; 2018-2019; 2021-2022. ACT LAC Co-Chair, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. ACT Member-at-Large, 2023-2024. President & CEO, GSBA, Washington State’s LGBTQ and allied Chamber of Commerce; BA Sociology & Psychology, CUNY Brooklyn College; Board member: Outright International; Antidfamation League Pacific NW Region; Named by PSBJ top 20 most influential women; Seattle Storm 2013 Inspiring Women award; 2016 PSBJ Lifetime Achievement Award; Business Equality Magazine named as one of 50 over 50 Legacy Leaders in the US; 2019 Crosscut Media Courage in Business Award; Lambda Legal Leadership Award; 2021 GenPride Leadership Award; 2022 GSBA Lifetime Impact Award.

Statement: The 2024-2025 academic year will be an important year for ACT as we prepare to host the next ACCT Annual Congress in October 2024 and start discussing the next biennial state budget in regard to our 34-community college system. If I am elected for another term on the ACT Board, I believe my experience these past three years, including two as the LAC Co-Chair, will be an asset as we start our planning for the ACCT Congress as well as engage with the State Board (SBCTC) and our legislators on the financial needs for our community college system.

ACT is an important organization within the community college system and is the only organization whose mission is to provide professional development and educational opportunities for Trustees. ACT is firmly committed to enriching the knowledge and skills for us to be effective Trustees so that we can advance our shared commitment for a strong, diverse, open access higher education system. I eagerly look forward to playing a leadership role in shaping the educational programs so that ACT remains effective and sustainable as Washington State’s trustee professional association.

I would be honored to continue to serve on the ACT Board and to work with each of you as we approach the opportunities and challenges of strengthening our 34-community college system. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the office of ACT Member-at-Large.

For equity in education,

Louise Chernin
Seattle Colleges
ACT Member-at-Large Candidate

RICHARD LEIGH
Bellevue College

Biography: Appointed in February 2018, I am in my fifth year as a Trustee at Bellevue College. I served as Board Chair 2021-2022. ACT Treasurer, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. I am the Chief Legal Officer/General Counsel for the SEIU 775 Benefits Group, a family of nonprofit trusts that provide training, healthcare and retirement benefits to 50,000 caregivers in Washington. I also serve as Chair of the Audit Committee of Seattle Credit Union. I am a former Board member of the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation and Casey Family Programs.

In addition to my current role, I have also served as general counsel to both public and privately held companies. Prior to my serving as the first-ever Vice President and General Counsel at the Seattle Seahawks and then at Vulcan, I spent eight years as a corporate attorney with the Seattle law firm of Foster Pepper & Shefelman (now Foster Garvey), where I was a Partner.

Statement: I am honored to be nominated to serve as ACT Member-at-Large. Since my appointment to the Bellevue College Board of Trustees in 2018, ACT has played a significant role in my Trustee on-boarding and development. I have had the pleasure of participating in several ACT conferences, activities, and events, including the Trustees of Color Affinity Group and Trustee Tuesdays. I have also had the privilege of serving two terms as your ACT Treasurer. Previously, I served three years as a member of the ACT Nominating Committee. My initial service in support of ACT began as the Bellevue College Trustee representative to the ACT Legislative Action Committee. All these roles have provided me with an invaluable insight into ACT’s mission, operations, and procedures.

My goal as ACT Member-at-Large is to continue the good work that ACT has already begun to: clarify and refine its strategic priorities; elevate the voice of trustees state-wide; and demonstrate its value proposition to its members.

It would be my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your ACT Member-at-Large. I truly appreciate your support and your vote. Thank you!

Richard Leigh
Bellevue College
ACT Nominating Committee Candidates

PRETRINA MULLINS
Centralia College

**Biography:** Appointed October 2021. District Assessment Coordinator, Academic Counselor of White Pass Jr. Sr. High School 504. 28 Years in education. M.A.; M.Ed. McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison; WEA-Chinook Executive Board; WPEA Local Union President; White Pass Scholarship Fund Committee

**Statement:** Continuous learning comes from continuous involvement in our community. Sharing ideas, supporting students, and transforming lives through working with others is important. Is a small but mighty gesture and I want to contribute any way I can. As a trustee at Centralia College and a nominee on the ACT committee I can continue this work and represent others in a positive way.

WILMA CARTAGENA
Wenatchee Valley College

**Biography:** Appointed February 2020. Civil Rights Investigator, WA State Human Rights Commission. Former Marketing Specialist, Numerica Credit Union; School Registrar, Department of Defense Dependent Education Activity (DODEA). B.A., Education, Univ. of Maryland Global Campus; M.A., Human Resources, Webster University.

**Statement:** Thank you for this opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee for ACT. I believe that service to others is one of our highest callings. I welcome the opportunity to continue my service at the committee helping ACT find the best servant leader within our excellent community of Trustee leaders.

WALLY WEBSTER
Edmonds College

**Biography:** Appointed October 2019. Board Chair, 2021-22, Board Vice Chair, 2020-21. Retired, Senior VP, Bank of America. AA, Applied Science, Columbia Basin Community College; AA, Business Admin., Columbia Basin Community College; BS, Business Administration, Central WA Univ.; MS, Organizational Behavior, Central WA University.

**Statement:** The Nominating Committee provides the opportunity to see and hear firsthand Student’s success, including persistence and completion of goals and dreams; and how Community and Technology Colleges are transforming students’ lives and the lives of their families and communities in which they work, live, and play.