

Yuba College Presidential Forums - May 11, 2020

Students, faculty, staff and the community are invited to meet the four Yuba College President Candidates at the Community Forum on Monday, May 11, 2020 (candidate forum time listed below biography).



Dr. Sonja Lolland

Dr. Lolland has 20 years of experience in the California community system and is currently serving as the Interim Vice Chancellor of Education and Planning at Yuba Community College District in Northern California. Dr. Lolland also has three years of experience serving as a Vice President. In 2016, she joined Yuba College as the Vice President of Academics and Student Services, and led the instructional and student services areas. She also served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Hartnell College and recently led the institution through a very successful ACCJC visit. Dr. Lolland previously worked for 19 years at Sierra College, where she became dean of the Business, Applied Academics and Physical Education Division. Prior to moving into administration, she was a part-time and tenured business instructor at Sierra College in Rocklin, California.

Dr. Lolland has experience leading large transfer programs, complex career and technical programs, large intercollegiate athletic programs, workforce development programs, and student service programs. She also has experience with integrated planning, including the development and execution of strategic and educational master plans to improve student success and equity.

In addition to her higher education experience, Dr. Lolland has 11 years of business experience at small, medium and large companies, including Arthur Andersen & Company, First Nationwide Bank and Verio, Inc. She holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of California, Davis, a master's degree in business from California State University, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Davis. Dr. Lolland has served on the board of the California Community College Athletics Association and the statewide advisory committee for the CCC Maker Initiative. She is also a member of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers Association (CCCCIO), and Rotary.

Dr. Sonja Lolland - Virtual Forum

Monday, May 11, 2020, 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98630805097>

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 986 3080 5097

[Click here to complete Dr. Lolland's Survey](#)



Dr. Tawny Dotson

Dr. Tawny M. Dotson currently serves as the Interim Vice President for Instruction and Executive Director of the Foundation at Clover Park Technical College, Pierce County, Wash. CPTC serves more than 6,500 students annually, in 7 schools, 44 program areas (BAS, AAS-T, AAT, Certificate), 496 employees, four bargaining units, two campuses, two satellite locations, and a \$36 million state operating budget. She oversees an additional endowment of \$1.7 million, a 16-member Board of Directors for the Foundation, and all aspects of the 501(c)3 organization.

In her current role, she is responsible for leading CPTC's Instructional Departments, including Professional-Technical programs and certificates, Academics, Transitional Studies, Workforce programs, Correctional Education programs, and the Northwest Career & Technical High School. She has served as the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer for six years and lead negotiator for four collective bargaining agreements. Dotson joined CPTC in 2012 and was previously the Vice President for Strategic Development. Dotson has led Communications/Marketing, Outreach/Recruiting, Legislative Affairs, Human Resources, Grant Development, Institutional Research, Curriculum Development, Outcomes Assessment, and strategic planning.

At CPTC, Dr. Dotson advocated for expanding the college, resulting in a \$33 million state legislative investment in a Center for Advanced Manufacturing. She co-leads redesign work through the Guided Pathways Core Team, having authored the college's successful \$1 million grant application. GP at Clover Park has led developmental math reform increasing completion of college-level math for CPTC's students from 16% to 27% through a co-requisite model.

She also has a distinguished military career, starting as an active-duty Air Force Officer. She has been stationed at Beale, Travis, MacDill, and McChord (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord) Air Force Bases, in addition to Camp Murray. Lt. Col. Dotson led a 16-member advance team for President George W. Bush, organized an International Public Affairs Conference, and was a first responder to Washington State's Oso Landslide.

Dr. Dotson has taught in Marketing, Public Speaking, and Photography in addition to College Success as an adjunct, guest lecturer, and continuing education instructor. She serves on the Board for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Assistant Governor for Rotary District 5020, and previously Kiwanis.

Dr. Tawny Dotson - Virtual Forum

Monday, May 11, 2020, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95140475627>

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 951 4047 5627

[Click here to complete Dr. Dotson's Survey](#)



Dr. James Todd

Dr. James Todd has over 13 years of experience in instruction and student services in California community colleges. He has held a variety of positions, including Professor, Academic Senate President, Accreditation Liaison Officer, Chief Student Services Officer, and Chief Instructional Officer. He has also served as an elected faculty representative on the statewide Executive Committee for the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and he maintains a strong commitment to participatory governance and an inclusive style of educational leadership. James was previously the Vice President of Student Services at Modesto Junior College, and he is currently the Assistant Superintendent and Vice President of Instruction and Planning at San Joaquin Delta College.

James is a transformational leader who grounds his philosophy and practice in principles of equity, access, and inclusion. He is passionate about fostering access and opportunity for underserved populations, meeting the needs of diverse communities, facilitating student success and completion, and ensuring equitable post-graduation outcomes for students. He has participated in national reform movements, such as Achieve the Dream, to improve student equity and institutional outcomes, and he has been involved in leading efforts on local campuses to enact Guided Pathways strategies for student success.

James graduated with an Associate of Arts degree from Brevard Community College in Florida, and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and International Relations from New College of Florida, a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology at The George Washington University, and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Cultural Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He recently completed the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management, the California Education Policy Fellowship Program at the Education Insights Center (CSU Sacramento), and the Aspen Institute College Excellence Presidential Fellowship Program.

Dr. James Todd - Virtual Forum

Monday, May 11, 2020, 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91440073622>

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 914 4007 3622

[Click here to complete Dr. Todd's Survey](#)



Dr. Torence Powell

Dr. Torence Powell attributes his enduring passion for education in part to the transformative experiences he had as a first-generation community college student in South Sacramento. After completing his senior year of high school at Cosumnes River College as an advanced education student, Torence transferred to Cal State, Los Angeles where he completed a Bachelor's degree in Social Science, with a minor in History. Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, he was hired at the University of Redlands as the Assistant Director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

While at Redlands, Torence also taught courses in Service Learning and Environmental Justice, engaging students in the Colorado River restoration project on his ancestral tribal reservation (The Quechan Nation) in Fort Yuma, AZ. Torence earned a Master's degree in Educational Leadership while at the University of Redlands, completing a thesis analyzing a peer mentoring program for students of color.

Torence left Redlands after four years to pursue a Master's degree in Urban Design and Planning (MUP) at the University of Washington in Seattle. While at the UW, Torence was a fellow of the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, served as a Research Assistant for the Kellogg Foundation's food security index initiative and served as a Graduate Assistant for the Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center. Torence earned his MUP degree at the UW with a thesis on implementation strategies for inclusionary zoning housing policies in the ethnically diverse community of Southeast Seattle.

Upon completion of his MUP, and after a short stint as an Urban Planning consultant for various civic departments in Seattle, Torence returned to the field of education at CRC as the Director of the GreenForce Initiative, working on establishing pathways for "green sector" careers in the fields of architecture, construction, engineering and energy. After two years as GreenForce Director, Torence was hired as the Dean of the Communication, Visual and Performing Arts division at CRC, overseeing the departments of Art/Art History, Communication Studies, Film Studies, Music, Radio/TV/Film and Theatre. He served as division Dean for three years, until offered and accepting the position of Associate Vice President of Instruction and Student Learning at CRC. While serving as the AVP of Instruction, Torence returned to school at UC, Davis, earning his Ed.D in Educational Leadership in 2017 with a dissertation analyzing student success and persistence in development math sequences. Torence served as the AVP of Instruction until July of 2019, when he was asked to spearhead the Los Rios Colleges Online initiative in his current role as the interim Vice President of Student Access and Online Engagement.

An avid distance runner, Torence has completed over 30 half and full marathons and credits running with helping to keep his life in balance (though he's slowly making the transition to cycling in an effort to spare his knees). He also loves basketball, and despite his humble 5'8" frame can still ball. Torence stays engaged in his community through his service on the boards of two local youth education-based non-profits. He currently resides in Sacramento with his wife Jennie and son Lorenzo.

Dr. Torence Powell - Virtual Forum

Monday, May 11, 2020, 1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97150135376>

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 971 5013 5376

[Click here to complete Dr. Powell's Survey](#)



The virtual forums are open to any participant through Zoom. Attendees can send questions through the Zoom chat feature. The forums will be recorded and available for viewing through May 14. Only questions asked during the forum will be recorded. For more information, please contact (530) 741-6707 or zzermeno@yccd.edu