



Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges
Candidate Biography – Officer Elections 2019

To have your photo and information included with the ballot and other voting materials, please return this form to the 4Cs office by **Wednesday, March 20. Email Photo and Responses to ellen@the4cs.org**

PHOTOS: Please submit a headshot photo (jpg or gif) 150 px wide x 200 px high. **VIDEOS:** You may create a short (2 minute or less) video for the 4Cs website.

Name: Lois D. Aimé

College: Norwalk Community College

Office sought: President

Email: laime@norwalk.edu

Statement: (no more than 100 words. Longer statements will be cut at 100th word.)

If I were elected president of the 4Cs I would make the union more relevant to its members. Our system is facing an array of problems. The 4Cs needs to be part of the conversation on solutions to those problems. A response to a member that boils down to, you should be happy that you have a job, is not a response that encourages confidence in the future. What is happening in our system will negatively impact the way we do our jobs. We and our students will suffer the consequences. We need to stand up and be heard.

Education: BGS, University of Connecticut

MS, Eastern CT State University

Professional Experience and Activities:

I believe that if one sees something that is or could turn into a problem, it is a duty to work to fix it. It is important to identify concerns and figure out how to correct them in an equitable way. In order to do this effectively you need to get in front of the problem and work with everyone concerned to come up with a solution that can be accepted by all. You should always be willing to accept responsibility if and when something goes wrong, as I have done on occasions. And as much transparency as possible should be at the core of any actions taken.

As those at Norwalk CC know, I am committed to transparency at every level. The more people know about something, the more they can ask the right questions and understand the answers.

Additionally, contrary to what I hear certain individuals are stating about my position, I have NOT, *at any time*, suggested that any community colleges should be closed in order to save money. I am supportive of all 12 of our colleges staying open and thriving. I do not know where this is coming from. I am concerned that things are being attributed to me without speaking to me. I suggest individuals (and their supporters) stick to talking about their own positions on topics and not spread falsehoods about what positions others may have.

ACTIVITIES:

- I was a member of the committee that created the By-Laws for our senate and was elected its first vice-president, fall 2006 to spring 2008. In the spring of 2008, I was elected president of the NCC senate. I again was elected president of the senate in the spring of 2014 to start in fall 2014. I was re-elected to an additional two-year term in the spring of 2016 and I was again re-elected to serve as senate president in 2018 to serve through the spring of 2020.
- I am on the Educational Technology system committee and was co-chair of that committee for four years.
- I have served on the NCC Integrity Committee, and I serve on the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion.
- I helped create, served as Chair and Co-Chair, and still serve on NCC CARES, the committee that recommends ways to support environmentally friendly issues to help improve our carbon footprint. As part of this, I worked with our Director of Maintenance to receive over \$200,000 in rebates from CL&P (its name at the time) as we reduced our electrical usage through better lighting and heating options. We also worked with CT Wheels to establish a shuttle bus between NCC and the South Norwalk train station to make it easier for students, faculty and staff to use public transportation.
- I was on the Steering Committee of our 2014 NEASC Self-Study. Among other things, I was in charge of working with the technology that was needed both by NCC faculty and staff and the NEASC visiting team. I was also asked to be a “floating consultant” to help incorporate distance learning issues into each of the standards and was part of the Standard 7 committee.
- I am currently on the Steering Committee in charge of compiling our 5th year report for NECHE. I have been tasked with merging and writing the final product. In addition, I am writing Standard 3.
- I was a member and co-chair of the system-wide Instructional Technology Working Group (ITWG) that was formed as a result of the merger of the CSUs and the CCCs in 2011.
- I was on the Transform 2020 Steering Committee and served as secretary. We worked on slowing things down and helped set the stage for the process to become more inclusive and transparent until the committee was dissolved by President Gray.
- I am the current chair of the Community College Governance Assembly (CCGA) that was developed during the time President Gray was in charge of the CSCU system.
- I serve as a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). As a member I have put forward a number of agenda items to make the “Students First” proposal more transparent and inclusive as well as to question the reasoning behind this initiative. For over 5 months I requested that the FAC agenda include a statement on the need for transparency in respect to the multitudes of committees

formed in regard to the “consolidation” that would give access to the committee names, members, charge, agendas and minutes. There is now a web presence, of sorts, where some of the “Students First” committees’ agendas, minutes, etc. have been posted. However, two of us had to present this to the CCIC (College Consolidation Implementation Committee) to get the current limited results. I do not consider this a victory since the content seems to be incomplete.

- In our 2014 NEASC Self-Study we were told that we needed to improve on the number of students who were evaluating their classes at the end of every semester. We had been using the online evaluation option supplied by System Office. I suggested going back to paper evaluations as a few colleges had already done. In the fall 2018 semester I was asked to research and implement a paper-based evaluation process that would allow us to greatly improve our return percentage. I did so and am currently in the process of being trained and training on how to finalize this new format.
- I spear-headed a voter registration drive at NCC in 2018 with a grant I applied for and received from the Fairfield County Community Foundation through the Norwalk Community College Foundation. With the help and support of other faculty and staff we registered 252 students to vote last September through late October.
- Finally, and most importantly, I spent a lot of time reviewing all aspects of the “Students First” proposal put forward by President Mark Ojakian and became alarmed and concerned about how destructive it would be to us, to all of our students, and to the public higher education system in Connecticut. As such, since 2017 I have been fighting the implementation of this in every way I know. I have written any number of letters to legislators, I have spoken to legislators, I have spoken to the media. As examples, I have appeared twice on “Where We Live,” a show on CT NPR, I have been interviewed by Inside Higher Ed twice, I have been interviewed by the CT Mirror, the Hartford Courant and the CT Post a number of times, and I have written letters to various news outlets and to NEASC/NECHE. I attended the public hearing that included commentary on SB 749, AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, and submitted testimony supporting it (and against HB 7120). I have worked with Stephen Adair, a professor at CCSU and another member of the FAC, on numerous occasions over the last two years as we have battled to make legislators and the media understand how damaging the implementation of this will be to our students, CT public higher education and the future of the state of CT. I have put forward a number of resolutions against various aspects of this proposal and all have been approved by the NCC senate. Recently Stephen and I invited faculty and staff from the CCCs and the CSUs to participate in discussions

on how we can move this forward on a larger scale. This resulted in a petition against the consolidation signed by over 1400 faculty, staff, students, retired presidents, retired board members and other CT citizens and a press conference, also against the consolidation. We will make sure this momentum continues.

EXPERIENCE/HISTORY:

I have been full-time at Norwalk Community College since 2000. Prior to that I worked part-time, for four years, in the Cooperative Education department. Since 2004 I have been Director of Educational Technology at NCC. As such I am responsible for training and supporting faculty and staff in most areas of technology. A large part of my job includes training and supporting faculty in the use of Blackboard, whether they are teaching online or using it in a ground-based class as a support tool. However, my duties also include training and support of various other forms of technology used by faculty and staff, including Self-Service Banner, Internet Native Banner, Degree Works, upgrades to software including MS Office, and other forms of technology as they are adopted for use by faculty and staff. I have also been involved in various committees and governance bodies as noted above. As an example of the training that I have been involved in, for the transition to Blackboard Learn in the fall of 2012, I offered 58 workshops on all aspects of Blackboard Learn starting in fall 2011 through the summer of 2012. Three hundred twenty-eight (duplicated) faculty members attended these workshops. As noted above, I have been asked to take charge of a number of functions that would not, normally, be part of my job description. I am also an adjunct faculty member who has taught Freshman Seminar and Business Applications Software. I am planning to teach Technical Writing this fall.

4C's Activities:

- I participated in the 4Cs Distance Learning negotiations
- I am a member of the Delegate Assembly for NCC
- I am currently the NCC staff representative
- I was on the 4Cs election committee for NCC and helped create an online voting option