

## **Academic Senate Part Time Representative – Vote for One**

### **Mirsaeid Abolghasemi, BCAT/CIS, PT with REP**

1) I am excited to serve on the committee as a part-time faculty member at De Anza Community College. My role as a part-time faculty member has given me a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that adjunct instructors face in our institution. My academic background has provided me with a solid foundation of knowledge that I can contribute to the committee's discussions and initiatives. In addition to my academic qualifications, my active involvement in various campus activities and engagement with both students and colleagues have enabled me to build strong relationships and networks within our academic community. Furthermore, my identity as a member of a minority group and having a unique professional background brings a valuable dimension to my candidacy. It allows me to advocate for the inclusion and representation of underrepresented voices and perspectives within the committee's work.

2) Diversity is of paramount importance for the committee I am joining. Part-time faculty members play a crucial role in the educational landscape, and their representation on the committee ensures that the specific needs and concerns of this group are considered in policy development and decision-making processes. Additionally, the diversity of academic disciplines represented among committee members is essential as it fosters a well-rounded and comprehensive approach to addressing the unique challenges faced by different departments and programs at De Anza Community College. The inclusion of members with diverse backgrounds and identities is vital for understanding the complexities of equity and inclusion, allowing the committee to develop informed strategies that account for the intersectionality of issues. Embracing identity diversity within the committee sets a positive example for our educational community and ensures that our college is a place where all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique insights.

### **Melissa L. Sherman, NP, Nursing, PT without REP**

I put myself through nursing school as a single mother of four children in the late 1990's, while working full time as well as working part time on campus as part of my financial aid package. I have mentored nursing students since 2011. I enjoy helping others to achieve their highest level of success. I went back later, to complete my Bachelor's degree while working in a cancer center and then out on the road for a pharmaceutical company. I gave birth to four child, inherited several more later through a remarriage and now have 16 grandchildren. I was born in a small farming town in SW Idaho. Spent my teen years in Portland, Oregon and moved kicking and screaming to Bakersfield, CA in November of 1985, after surviving a car accident that should have killed me. There is no "I" in team. We all need to pull together in order for everyone to win. I don't see color, because we shouldn't. I judge a person based on the content of their character. Let's work together and see what incredible things can happen!