



Muskegon Community College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OPEN INTERVIEW – PRESIDENTIAL FINALIST Dr. Eric Dunker

April 18, 2022 – 7:15 p.m.
Room 2109E – Board Room – Main Campus

Present: Chair Osborn, Vice Chair Mullally, Trustee Frye, Trustee Moore, Trustee Cook, Trustee Crandall and Trustee Portenga

Chair Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Brief bio – Dr. Eric Dunker

Dr. Eric Dunker currently serves as the Associate Vice President and Dean of Business, Technology, and Workforce Partnerships at Arapahoe Community College (ACC) in Colorado and is an Aspen Institute Fellow in the 2022 Rising Community College President Fellowship. In his current position, he leads ACC's extended campuses, serves as an Academic Dean in Technology and Business, and champions ACC's efforts in industry and community engagement.

Dunker is a national leader in community college advancement and workforce development efforts. Under his leadership, ACC has cultivated \$11.3 million in new private donations and recently secured a \$2 million Sync Up Colorado challenge program that will bridge high school to health careers.

Additionally, he has led over \$6.5 million in new public grants and appropriations, co-created innovative apprenticeships in health care, technology, and business, and co-created responsive career-ready programs for displaced workers in the Denver-south region during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dunker's work received statewide recognition at the Colorado Apprenticeship Awards as he was named the 2021 Colorado Apprentice Champion. He was recently appointed by Colorado's governor to the state apprenticeship council.

He prioritizes local community and industry engagement through active and visible leadership evidenced by his current service on the Colorado State Youth Council board, the Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce board, and the Colorado State University County extension board. Dunker co-led the design of the innovative \$40 million Sturm Collaboration Campus that opened in 2019 in the fast-growing community of Castle Rock, Colorado where he leads campus strategy and operations. The Sturm Collaboration Campus, recipient of the Economic Development Partnership of the Year in Colorado award, is a partnership between K-12, Arapahoe Community College, Colorado State University, the Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Center, and local industry and is a national model for community college modernization.

Dunker has over 17 years of experience in higher education. Prior to ACC, he served as the Coastal Regional Director for Oregon State University Extension. He led six rural county extension offices and helped implement new strategic initiatives for engagement and rural economic development such as co-creating the first outdoor recreation and tourism faculty positions on the Oregon coast. Prior to OSU, Dunker worked in a variety of roles for nine years at MSU Denver, which is a Hispanic Serving Institution in downtown Denver. He graduated from Bucknell University with his BSBA in Business, Colorado State University with an MS in Student Affairs in Higher Education, and the University of Denver with a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction.

He and Katie, his wife of 16 years and a Michigan native, have three active children. They love traveling, spending time with family, and participating in outdoor activities – especially at their family's lake home in central Minnesota.

Following are the interview questions asked by the Board of Trustees:

1. Introduce yourself and briefly walk us through your background.
2. Tell us about the plan for your first year at MCC. What would you expect to accomplish? What would you need from us as the Board of Trustees to help you reach those goals?
3. How do you prioritize your work as a leader and as a president?
How should a college president view student access and success relative to other priorities?
4. Please discuss your fundraising capabilities and 2-3 biggest accomplishments, providing specific examples of gifts raised, or revenues increased, and for what purpose(s).
5. Describe a situation where you were able to influence lawmakers or other public policy figures on an important issue. What approaches or strategies did you use?
6. Please describe the greatest threat to fiscal stability facing an organization or unit you have led. How did you respond to the threat? What was the result?
7. Please provide 1-2 specific examples of your experience building effective partnerships with third party organizations, especially with K-12 schools or school districts, other colleges, community-based organizations, and/or employers. How did the partnerships yield measurable results for students? How did they grow over time? What did you do to sustain them?
8. Our vision is an educated, inclusive community. Describe for us 2-3 ways you have worked toward this at your current institution.
9. Provide a specific example of when you had to win over someone who was not responding to your message. What did you do to achieve your desired outcome?
10. We have strong committed faculty/staff at the institution, what kind of culture would you develop here?
11. What is your vision for our college in terms of partnering with outside entities? What would you hope to accomplish?
12. What surprised you or scared you the most about your visit today to MCC?
13. What does MCC's Strategic Plan of aspiring to be the best community college in the nation look like to you?
What does this look like for the faculty, staff and students at MCC?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

1. What do you believe are the bright spots (opportunities) and some of the tensions (challenges) you'll be facing in the next 1-3 yrs. ?
2. If the President could accomplish 1-2 things that would make you feel good about the hire, what would it be.
3. Any other key accomplishments? What does success look like to you?

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Nancy Frye
/csd