

R. RAZZ JENKINS

CANDIDATE FOR OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Candidate: R. Razz Jenkins

Website:

Occupation: Actor; Retired Human Resources Professional

Education: Valparaiso University B.A.; Ohio University P.A.T.P Professional, Human Resources, SHRM

Civic Involvement: Past Trustee Valparaiso University; President, Valparaiso University Alumni Association; Past Vice-Chair/Executive Committee, Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired; Board member, SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local; Board member, Midwest Advisory Board, Actors Equity Association; City of Des Plaines, Youth Commissioner.

1. Why are you running?

Oakton has been a significant part of my family for over 35 years. Our son, Cuyler, Eagle Scout Troop 50/Park Ridge, Loyola Academy 2008, is a graduate of Oakton's computer technology program. My wife, Emeritus Prof. Patti Interrante, retired from the full-time faculty after several years as Adjunct Professor and is herself, an Oakton graduate. My service driven lifestyle has included higher education, not-for-profit and personal growth. I am running for a Trustee position to utilize my skills, knowledge and abilities in furtherance of the Mission, Vision and Values of Oakton Community College.

2. What are your qualifications?

Over the past 25 years, I have excelled in board work. I practice fiduciary care, reasoned discussion, data-driven decision making and stewardship. I rely on these and other abilities in order to create the conditions for civic growth, empowerment and a collaborative environment. In addition to the education and social services market space, I have also been board member for SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local. This national union representing performers, journalists and stunt performers gives me the unique view for understanding the importance of labor agreements and how, in concert with corporate goals, a convivial work space benefits all parties. Additionally, I worked in corporate Human Resources as staff recruiter, succession planning and employment manager for firms and clients throughout the metro Chicago region and subsidiaries.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure on the board?

If selected to serve, my rapid learning curve will allow me to come up to speed quickly on the issues facing the college. I have no agenda, preconceived notions or outside influences other than what is ethical, legal, mission focused and in the best interests of the student, tax payer and internal stake holders. In my experiences, I always hold to the higher path, have a desire to create a positive outcome and know how best to use resources without being either profligate or miserly. I listen, ask cogent questions, learn, adapt and make decisions based on facts, data and reasoned reflection. I am accountable and act with integrity. Additionally, I have learned to be the first to say, "I don't know/understand" and to ask for help. There is shame only in not asking for either.

Like so many in the community, I take great pride in Oakton Community College. My hope to use my best efforts to continue to raise its profile, further its place in the business community, value the faculty, administration and staff as well as advance its partnership with feeder and local schools both public and private. There is much work to do. I look forward to getting started.