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Page 1: Questionnaire

Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Adam Spickler
Email: amspickler@yahoo.com
Website: http://adamspickler.org

Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Cabrillo College Board of Trustees, Area 2

Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: **Open Seat**

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ? **Yes, I am transgender**
Is there anything else about your identity that you'd like us to know?:
I identify as queer in both my sexual orientation and my gender identity

Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance? **Yes, I am currently a 2018 member!**

Q6 Please describe your qualifications for the elected position you seek. Include your main issues, priorities if elected, key endorsements, plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

A 26-year resident of Santa Cruz County, I am a proud graduate of Cabrillo College. Since graduating in 2002 I've worked locally as a nonprofit director and as senior staff in state and county government. I currently administer child-welfare, housing support and employment services contracts for the County's Human Services Department. Prior to this I worked for two state lawmakers, Bill Monning and John Laird, assisting individuals and agencies on policy and budget issues relating to K-12 and higher education, healthcare, social services, civil rights, housing, seniors, labor and public safety. Before working in government I spent 14 years as a leader in early childhood education as a nonprofit preschool teacher and director. The learning experiences I had at Cabrillo College helped shape who I am today. Now, I want students of all backgrounds to be able to access to the world-class education I had as a Cabrillo student. As a Cabrillo Trustee I'll bring an experienced and fresh perspective to decisions impacting generations of future college students. I am running to become a Trustee for Cabrillo College so that I can help further equal access to an affordable college education, strengthen and support educational diversity, and advocate for vital state funding for Cabrillo College. I held my first volunteer job at the Rosmarie Greiner Children's Peace & Anti-bias Library at the college. I've since gone on to volunteer in leadership roles with the Diversity Center, the Santa Cruz County Democratic Party, the City of Santa Cruz Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and with the GLBT Alliance. A longtime LGBTQ activist, I came out publicly as transgender in 2010. If elected as a Trustee for Cabrillo College Board, I could become the first out, transgender man to be elected to public office in California. These experiences in public service have given me a deep appreciation for the complexities in addressing community needs, and have placed me at the heart of work being done by educators, government, nonprofits and business to improve our community. I am proud to be endorsed by CA Senate Majority Leader Bill Monning; Santa Cruz County Supervisors John Leopold, Ryan Coonerty and Zach Friend; Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent Michael Watkins and Superintendent-Elect Faris Sabbah; and a host of City and school board elected officials. You can read more about me, who is endorsing me and why I am running, at <http://adamspickler.org>.

Q7 Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance's membership—a community that means a great deal to me! I have been the Communications Secretary and an active Steering Committee member of the GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County for nearly 8 years. As a result, I've helped inform our community on local, state and federal political issues impacting LGBTIQ civil rights. I've also been central in the GLBT Alliance's work with local policy-makers to enact LGBTIQ supportive policies like the local employee travel bans enacted by the Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville, and the County of Santa Cruz, to states with anti-LGBTIQ laws on their books. Additionally, I've led many LGBTIQ community education and training efforts, helped coordinate with Santa Cruz and Pajaro Valley Prides over the years, and have been an active Triangle Speaker for almost a decade.

Q8 Please tell us about any past or current experiences or involvement you've had addressing LGBTIQ issues or work you've done to support the LGBTIQ community.

As an out, transgender and queer member of the Santa Cruz community, I have supported LGBTIQ equality in several ways over the past two decades. Much of the work I've done in the queer community has been behind the scenes, such as helping the Diversity Center as a former Board President to come back into financial solvency after the loss of an annual grant during the economic downturn of 2008, bolstering transgender and trans-youth support programs, LGBTIQ seniors' programming, and transgender health education and training for medical professionals. I also helped transition Santa Cruz Pride into a successfully self-sustaining organization after many years as a fledgling sub-committee of the Diversity Center. In 2013 during my own transition from female to male, I was denied—and then successfully appealed—health insurance coverage for chest reconstruction surgery that should never have been denied under CA State law. I used my appeal letter to create a template appeal packet in 2014, for other trans folk to use if denied coverage for legally protected transgender-related surgery. Planned Parenthood and local legal advocates have used my template to provide those in need with a path to successful appeal for surgery coverage protected by the California Insurance Non-Discrimination Act of 2006.

Q9 What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

I could unfortunately point to a whole host of historic political struggles that impact LGBTIQ civil rights, from the 1968 Stonewall riots and pushing back against our nation's legacy of anti-gay laws, to the Reagan administration's abhorrent turning of a blind eye in the 1980s to a generation of dying gay men during the AIDS crisis, and then to the U.S. Supreme Court and our 2013 marriage equality victory. For me, it is most important to note the civil rights struggles faced today by the transgender and gender non-binary community. The rise of so-called religious freedom movements, emboldened by the Trump administration, has given way to a growing sense of fear as trans folk experience an uptick in unlawful medical insurance coverage denials, as well as fear of discrimination by law enforcement, emergency medical responders, doctors offices and hospitals, educational institutions and government agencies. While trans and gender nonbinary folk have realized some historic civil rights gains in the last several years, there's still much work to be done to protect this vulnerable community, especially youth and seniors, facing fear of and experiencing real discrimination and bias each day.

Q10 What is your philosophy about working with minority communities of which you are not a member, and how will this manifest in your future work with the LGBTIQ community?

I really value intersectionality as a queer and trans person who is also Jewish, and spent much of my younger and adult life as working class. My philosophy as a Cabrillo Trustee in supporting minority students across identities will be rooted in this perspective. Working effectively on behalf of any community—whether you are part of that community or not—starts with actively and reflectively listening to people's struggles and inviting their thinking partnership while finding solutions. As a Trustee at Cabrillo, I will work hard to be present and listen, and will strive to be a bridge between people who might not otherwise get to see the commonalities and intersectionalities we all often share.

Q11 Please describe any programs you know of that impact the LGBTIQ community and that are governed by or funded through the elected office you are running for? Include any suggestions you may have for improving these programs.

The most impactful aspect of nondiscrimination policy for community colleges lies in the regulatory requirements of the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972 in Federal civil rights law. As a trustee for Cabrillo College, I will help provide strategic policy direction to enhance the college's Title 9 activities to prohibit discrimination of all kinds, for the staff and the student body affiliated with the school. In doing so, I hope to bolster the proactive approaches already under way at the college and ensure all types of non-discrimination and sexual harassment trainings are regularly provided, including trainings on working with a transgender student population. While implementation of the FAIR Education Act to ensure inclusion of members of the LGBTIQ community in history and social studies curriculum is not a mandate for curriculum past K-12, I hope to assess how well Cabrillo College uses the FAIR Act's principles as a goal for its own history and civics curriculum, and support improvements where applicable. My goal will be to ensure inclusion of leadership and civic victories from all marginalized communities so that Cabrillo's curriculum is in parity with the FAIR Education Act.

Q12 If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

I hope to help further LGBTIQ civil right issues in a number of ways as a Cabrillo Trustee. In addition to my being a knowledgeable equal employment and equal access advocate for the Title 9 obligations of the college, I hope to also support Cabrillo College's student-led organization, Rainbow Feminist Club to take on new equity initiatives and increase collaboration with teachers, other school clubs and organizations on campus. I will also seek to use my cross-over role as a Trustee and as a Triangle Speaker of the Diversity Center, to speak directly to students and teachers on the value of LGBTIQ inclusion and leadership opportunities for Cabrillo students and graduates.

Q13 If you receive the GLBT Alliance's endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature?

Yes, please send me the GLBT Alliance's logo (jpg file) so I can proudly announce the endorsement on my campaign literature, social media and website!
