

WENDY B. YANOW
CANDIDATE FOR OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Candidate: Wendy B. Yanow

Website: WendyBYanow4Oakton.com

Occupation: Adult and Higher Education

Education: Undergraduate coursework, Wilbur Wright, City Colleges of Chicago; BA, University of Illinois, Chicago Liberal Arts, Music; MA and EdD, National-Louis University, Chicago, Adult Education

Civic Involvement: Volunteer Teacher, Dorothy Stang Popular Education Adult High School, Chicago, 2017 and 2018; Anti-racism community teacher/facilitator and activist

1. Why are you running?

I am seeking election to the Oakton Community College (OCC) Board of Trustees because I believe in high-quality public higher education for all. Quality education for all begins with the student, is about teaching, learning and community, treats faculty (full-time and adjunct) and staff with respect and dignity, reflects the values of the entire community, serves learners and the community through a lens of equity and balances the budget prioritizing these essential considerations. OCC's Success Matters Strategic Plan emphasizes these very considerations and I would like to serve on the Board to ensure support for the necessary work to achieve these important goals.

Community colleges offer the best opportunity for many students to receive the higher education they desire. As a high school student in Chicago, I had the opportunity to enroll in dual credit courses within the community college system. From that experience, I realized that I enjoyed the intellectual challenge, could handle college-level learning and that those credits would offset some course requirements at the University of Illinois at Chicago, saving me scarce tuition dollars. Like many students at OCC, I put myself through college and that financial benefit was essential.

2. What are your qualifications?

I have been in the field of adult and higher education for my entire professional career. After receiving a BA in music and while working full-time, I earned an MA and later an EdD in Adult Education. I have been a faculty member, advisor, curriculum and program designer and, as a consultant, have trained faculty in assessing experiential learning and teaching adults. I have taught graduate courses on adult learning and served as a volunteer teacher to adult learners as they worked to complete their high school diplomas. As a consultant, I managed the Learning Center at the Skokie Campus of OCC. Working with the tutors there I was able to contribute to teaching and learning that occurs outside the formal classrooms.

In an effort to better support adult high school students' journey to achieve their diploma or GED, I recently became certified in Illinois in both Language Arts and Math as a Standards Proficient Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) teacher.

Currently, I am adjunct faculty at DePaul University's School for New Learning Master of Arts in Educating Adults program. I also teach Pre-GED at the Howard Area Community Center in Chicago. I am active in antiracism work in and outside of Evanston. With other community members, I facilitate learning on race and understanding difference and have published work on teaching race.

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

If elected to the Board, I will begin by supporting the outstanding education currently offered at OCC. I will prioritize the anti-racism work already begun there and prioritize an equity assessment to inform the distribution of resources. I will work to support the institution's mission and initiatives outlined in Oakton's 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan, Success Matters. I will work to advance awareness in the community of Oakton's quality and programming, in particular with the feeder high schools. I will cultivate understanding of the ways Oakton credentials advance progress toward a new career or growth within a current career, a 4-year degree and lifelong learning.

It would be my honor and privilege to serve on the Oakton Community College Board of Trustees.