

THERESA BASHIRI-REMETIO

CANDIDATE FOR OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Candidate Name: Theresa Bashiri-Remetio

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/TBRemetio/>

Occupation: Senior Financial Analyst

Education: Oakton Community College - A.A. Business; Elmhurst College - B.A. Economics & Marketing, Minor in International Business; Northern Illinois University - M.S.Ed. Higher Education Administration; Northern Illinois University - M.B.A.

Civic Involvement: Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President (OCC), 2008–2009; Phi Theta Kappa Mentor (OCC), 2009–2011; Student Trustee, Oakton Community College, 2012-2013; Trustee, Community College District 535, 2013-2015; Oakton Community College – Alumni Council Member, 2014-2018; Co-Chair - Oakton Alumni Council (2018-Present)

1. Why are you running?

I am a second generation Asian-American Oakton alum. For my mother and me, the College has been a source of hope, refuge and inspiration. I know that this is true for thousands of others who have found their way through Oakton. I am running for the Board to help ensure that the College will continue to be the community's college--providing accessible, affordable quality education focused on student support, degree completion, and student success.

2. What are your qualifications?

I am uniquely qualified to serve as an elected member of the Board whose primary role is to hold the College in trust for the community it serves. As a student and graduate of the College, I learned not only in the classroom but also through my involvement in student organizations and the leadership roles in which I served. Elected by the students, I served as student trustee from 2012-2013. During that time I was appointed to represent Oakton and adult students in Illinois in higher education on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's MAP (Monetary Award Program) Task Force. I also served from 2013-2015 as an elected member of the Oakton Community College Board of Trustees.

I know what it means to be a struggling, but successful student. After earning my Associate's degree in Business at Oakton, I went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Marketing, a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration, and an MBA. I am now employed as a Senior Financial Analyst. My educational background and career experience enable me to look through a number of different lenses and equip me to make assessments at both micro and macro levels; paying attention to both the tangible and intangible. I have a broad and deep understanding of higher education, especially the financial challenges for students and for the college. I appreciate the pivotal role of community colleges. As a student, working mother and middle-income taxpayer, I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and how important decisions made in the Board room impact a community's and a family's finances.

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

I understand that the Board takes action and makes decisions only as a body. No trustee acts alone. From my experience as a student, a former Board member, and a taxpayer, I bring a perspective I look forward to sharing with my trustee colleagues. I am a good listener and understand the importance of hearing and being appropriately responsive to stakeholder perspectives. I pledge to advocate for shared leadership focused on ensuring student success and fiscal responsibility.