



Dear Colleagues,

East County voters recently cast ballots for two Governing Board seats at our Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, and one seat was unopposed.

The final certified results are in, and we want to take a moment to congratulate Governing Board President Debbie Justeson and Vice President Brad Monroe on another term, and welcome new incoming Board Member Desiree Klaar. Each will be sworn in to a four-year term at the December 13 Governing Board meeting. At that meeting, Board Members will also choose who will take on the Board's leadership roles of President, Vice President and Board Clerk for 2023.

Below are brief biographies of the three Governing Board members who will be sworn in December 13.



Desiree Klaar, District 1

Desiree “Desi” Klaar is a long-time East County resident who will represent District 1. This is her first elected position. She served as a human resources professional in public education for 15 years, and now teaches business and marketing through San Diego Community College District’s California College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program. Desi enjoys developing processes, establishing goals, and using her analytical skills to achieve results. Once a Grossmont College student, Desi said the education she received at this District changed her life. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business from the University of Phoenix, and a master’s in biology from Miami University of Ohio. Among her priorities will be increasing community outreach and engagement to ensure that potential students are aware of the many opportunities available on our campuses.



Debbie Justeson, District 2

Incumbent Debbie Justeson will continue in her role representing District 2 for a fourth term. Debbie has been an educator for over 35 years, with teaching experience spanning from the preschool to post-graduate levels. She continues to teach full-time as a math teacher at San Diego Virtual School, and as a lecturer for the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University. She previously taught at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges and received the Adjunct Teacher of the Year Award twice. In this next term, Debbie aims to continue her commitment to improving public education by promoting and supporting programs that focus on student success, safeguarding community college affordability, and ensuring that tax dollars are spent wisely, with transparency and accountability.



Brad Monroe, District 5

After running unopposed, incumbent Brad Monroe will represent District 5 for a second term. Brad has more than 40 years of experience as a community college educator. He was founding chair of the Ornamental Horticulture program at Cuyamaca College for 32 years, after serving as founding chair of the Southwestern College Ornamental Horticulture program. Brad shares Debbie's goals of ensuring community colleges remain affordable and that tax dollars are spent wisely, with transparency and accountability. Additionally, Brad intends to use his extensive classroom experience to be sure the District's policies help students succeed.

We look forward to working with each of our Governing Board members in these critical leadership roles, carrying out the District's mission of providing high-quality, equitable learning opportunities to eastern San Diego County and beyond.

Sincerely,

Lynn

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.
Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District