

## ***Dr. Rudy J. Besikof***

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### **Education**

#### **Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership**

University of California Los Angeles

Educational Leadership Program

Dissertation: **The Role of the Community College President in Fundraising: A Best Practices Study** (UCLA School of Education Outstanding Dissertation Award Recipient)

#### **Master of Arts, English (Applied Linguistics)**

University of Colorado, Denver

#### **Bachelor of Arts, English, French**

University of Colorado, Boulder

**Spring 2025** – Completed Wheelhouse CEO Institute (University of California, Davis)

### **Experience**

**July, 2020 – Present**

Laney College

Oakland, CA

President (Appointed Acting President in Summer 2020; Hired as Permanent in Fall 2020)

Since being promoted to the role of President, I have served as the Chief Education Officer at the largest institution in a four-college community college district. Since Fall 2022, thanks to a free college/basic needs initiative started by our senior leadership team, Laney has seen a roughly 12% increase in enrollment (YTD), with 34.7% more African American students, 38.7% more Latinx students, and 11.5% more AAPI students enrolling. Furthermore, more students now apply for Financial Aid, and Dream Act submissions for aid have increased by 30%. Additionally, I led the College during a time when we improved our accreditation status, first as ALO and then College President. Finally, during my time as President, we strengthened relationship with local African American, AAPI and Latinx business and civic leadership. Nearly all my time as President has been in the depths of and emerging from the global pandemic.

Duties as President also include the following:

- Planning, organization, development, approval, implementation of Educational Master Plan, Strategic Goals and Objectives – *Most recently, we have updated our strategic goals and objectives, in addition to revising our Mission, Vision and Values to reflect our commitment to Guided Pathways.*
- Oversight of recommendations for the selection of personnel
- Development and administration of the college budget
- Member, Chancellor's Workgroup
- Member, Peralta Board of Trustees Student Success and Accreditation Subcommittee
- Service on committees and councils as directed by Board policies or the Chancellor.
- Representing the college as leadership both at the district and with community leaders
- Fundraising on behalf of the college – *During my time as President, Laney has seen a significant increase in employee giving, most in our District.*
- Assessment, planning, and implementation of capital projects funded by bond measures.
- Service as a member of Chancellor's Cabinet
- Innovative promotion of Laney as its CEO – This includes [\*The President's Desk\* radio broadcast/podcast](#) focused on students.
- Memberships include Board member status on the Oakland Workforce Development Board (sworn in during Fall 2023 after an appointment by the Mayor), President of Northern Alameda Adult Education Consortium's Executive Cabinet, and Oakland Rotary #3. I am the first sitting Laney College President to serve in these capacities.

2018-2020

Laney College  
Vice President of Instruction

Oakland, CA

As the Chief Instruction Officer at a school that is part of a 4-college district, I worked in a highly collaborative model with both Student Services as well as the Administrative Services Divisions and served as the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer.

During my time as the VPI, Laney reached its enrollment targets in Summer 2019 and Fall 2019. Moreover, the College, despite having 99 or 159 of its programs in the CTE designation, led the district in average class size/productivity in Spring 2020. Additionally, with our increase in Degrees for Transfer among African American students, the College received a Champion of Equity Award for its work in 2019-20.

Additional responsibilities as Laney College's Vice President of Instruction included the following:

- Leadership of the college's Office of Instruction, which consists of four academic divisions.
- Serving as the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer.
- Assisting the College President in the development of the total College budget. Additionally, I coordinated and supervised all aspects of the instructional budget.
- Senior point of leadership for Program Review at Laney College. – This included leadership of the process college-wide, as well as trainings for completion and validation for program reviews.
- Responsibility for the college's Program Review process, which includes co-chairing the Institutional Effectiveness Committee as well as the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee and service on the Learning Assessment Committee
- Authorship of the College's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan
- Supervision of faculty tenure review process, as well as the evaluation of full and part-time staff on a timely basis.
- Supervision of class schedule production process as well as that of the college catalog. This includes offerings offsite through programs such as adult education and dual enrollment
- Service as College Instructional Liaison with the District Academic Affairs Office and other educational institutions on all matters relating to the College's instructional program, and other related functions as assigned.
- Service on college, district curriculum committees
- Served as Acting President for three extended periods from 2018-2020

2016-2018

Mt. San Jacinto College  
*Vice President of Instructional Services*

San Jacinto, California

In addition to my roles at MSJC and within its community, I represented my fellow Vice Presidents in the Inland Empire and Desert region on the statewide Chief Instructional Officers Executive Board. I was also appointed in January 2018 to the U.S. Department of Commerce's District Export Council for the Southern California Inland Empire Region.

As Chief Instruction Officer at a 5-location college, my duties included the following:

- Planning, organization, evaluation, and assessment of the college's instructional programs and learning resources
- Holding regular Deans meetings, including periodic cross-divisional meetings
- Establishing goals for instructional services in consultation with the Superintendent/ President, the Instructional Deans, and constituent groups
- Development and prioritization of budget recommendations for all instructional area.
- Providing recommendations for staffing (including selection, assignment and evaluation) as well as facilities planning, utilization
- Providing interpretation, recommendations of policies and procedures for the instructional division

- Providing leadership for the improvement of teaching and learning, and faculty and staff development that facilitates student retention and success
- Maintaining positive public relations while communicating the mission and objectives of the college to various constituent groups within both the college and its service area
- Supervision of the development of the class schedule while providing assistance to Student Services in areas that include the development of the college catalog, dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment
- Coordination with the Academic Senate in the development, revision, and implementation of academic policies and procedures related to all aspects of academic work at the college
- Providing leadership regarding the use and innovation of technology to support student learning and enhance access and success
- Making regular reports to Board of Trustees as well as public speaking appearances, at times on behalf of the president or the college
- Co-chairing the college's Curriculum, Dual Enrollment, and Enrollment Management Committees, while serving on a number of other college and participatory governance groups
- Providing leadership, direction, and direct supervision of the district's Dual and Concurrent Enrollment programs, which offers courses at roughly 18 high school sites
- Senior-level supervision of the college's Faculty Professional Development Program

2013- 2016    Los Angeles Valley College    Valley Glen, California    ***Dean of Academic Affairs***

Within the Office of Academic Affairs, I was responsible for planning of course offerings for the entire college as well as production of the college's Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer Schedules.

I also supervised the Communication Studies, English/ESL, Foreign Languages, Kinesiology, Athletics, Music, Psychology and Theater Departments, as well as the college's Library and Athletics Program. Additional responsibilities included the following:

- Management of department budgets and supervision/mentoring of faculty and staff with work on Program Review as well as annual Goal, Scheduling, Outcomes, and Staffing submissions.
- Hiring, Supervision, Evaluation of Full and Part-Time Faculty, Classified Employees
- Providing administrative lens in authoring, providing feedback for Accreditation, specifically for Learning Resources Standard (IIB)
- Evaluation, Ranking of Program Reviews, Yearly Programmatic Requests, Student Learning Outcome Assessments
- Service on committees, most notably as Chair of the college's Enrollment Management Committee. I also sat on the Budget Prioritization, Facilities Planning, Workplace Environment and College Transfer Promotion (a/k/a Team Transfer) Committees. Prior to a realignment of my office, my responsibilities included serving on the Professional Development and Outcomes Assessment (SLO) Committees.
- Representing Academic Affairs on various Student Grievance, Discipline Committees
- Working Collaboratively with Chairs, Foundation Executive Director to Foster, Further Fundraising in Instructional Areas
- Serving as Interim Curriculum Dean, Fall 2014
- Serving as Acting V. P. of Academic Affairs during portion of Summer, 2014

2011-2013                      Woodland Community College                      Woodland, California  
***Position: Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources***

As the only academic dean, I supervised its academic divisions (Social Sciences Division; Math and Sciences Division; Fine Arts/Language Arts/Humanities Division) as well as all Learning

Resource areas. (The Library, Tutoring Center, Writing and Math Center, MESA Center, Academic Reading Center, and Media Support Services.)

I was also responsible for all operations the Colusa County Outreach Facility, located 45 miles away. In addition to being the academic dean for the facility, I supervised operations and maintenance. During that time, library resources were expanded thanks to a partnership I initiated and carried out with its county library and school district. What's more, I regularly met with educational and business leaders in the region as the Chair of the North Central Counties Career Technical Education Consortium.

Responsibilities as Woodland's Dean of Instruction & Learning Resources also included the following:

- Program and Budget Management for three academic divisions
- Enrollment Management, Supervision of Scheduling
- Assessing, Hiring, and Evaluating Faculty and Staff
- Coordinating Long-Range Academic and College Planning. Ultimately, my efforts resulted in the opening of a new Academic Reading Center on campus as well as an expansion of access to library resources.
- Providing Administrative support for W.C.C.'s M.E.S.A. Program
- Providing Administrative Input & Serving as the Instructional Contact for Campus Renovation Projects
- Campus Supervision, including Evenings
- Promoting collegial dialog, building consensus while running Division, Faculty, College Committee Meetings
- Serving as Co-Chair, Administrative Sponsor for BSI, Distance Education and Library Advisory Committees while serving as an Administrative Representative on the college's Curriculum, SLO, BSI, Faculty Staffing Committees as well as the Accreditation, Budget and Planning, Scheduling Committees and the College Council.
- Facilitation of Faculty, Staff Professional Development at Campus, District Levels. This has included the design and implementation of an intra-district leadership development program and is informed by the research I have done while teaching in a doctoral leadership program for Drexel University in Sacramento.

Because of my doctoral research, I was asked to attend some of the college's Foundation Board Meetings. I also represented Woodland Community College at civic functions, including service on the Woodland Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Taskforce.

2004 – 2011

**Long Beach City College**

Long Beach, California

Position: ***Professor of English as a Second Language***

Summary: I chaired Long Beach City College's Curriculum Committee and ran the ESL Department's Learning Center. I also represented my department as the Student Learning Outcomes Officer and acted as its liaison for all Program Planning and Review Matters. I also coordinated ESL scoring of writing placement examinations and chaired the ESL Academic Track Committee. Additional responsibilities included the following:

- Campus-wide Course Evaluation Committee Representative
- Equal Employment Opportunity Officer on Five Faculty Hiring Committees
- Evaluator of Full-Time and Adjunct Faculty
- Member, ESL Technology Oversight Committee
- Member, Academic Senate Executive Committee – Assisted in Scheduling Meetings, Met Regularly with College President and Vice Presidents on Academic Council, College Planning and Hiring Priorities Committees. I also served on the Committee on Committee Memberships along with the Constitution Revision, Commencement, Student Award workgroups.

- Member, Accreditation Committee, Standard IV
- Coordinator, ESL Essay-Level Writing Courses
- College-Wide Placement Reader

1999-2004                      **University of California at San Diego**                      La Jolla, California  
Position: *Instructor of ESL, English for Special Purposes, Education*

- Coordinated Placement Reading
- Represented faculty as a member of the Instructor Policy Committee
- Full-time instruction of ESL courses
- Wrote curriculum and materials for various courses
- Multiple Award-Winning Instructor of Future Educators
- Mentor to Instructors, Education Students

1993-94; 1997-99                      **Spring International Language Center**                      Littleton,  
 Colorado  
**Arapahoe Community College**  
Position: *Coordinator, Short-Term Programs of Study, ESL Instructor*

#### **Additional Teaching Experience**

2016- Present                      **Los Angeles Valley College (Adjunct English)** Los Angeles, California  
 2014- 2015 **Pierce College (Adjunct English)** Los Angeles, California 2012-2013 **Drexel University Doctoral Leadership Pgm.** Sacramento, California 2011 **Mira Costa College (Adjunct E.S.L.)** Oceanside, California  
 2006                      **Saddleback College (Adjunct E.S.L.)**                      Mission Viejo, California  
 2000-2004                      **Miramar College (Adjunct English, E.S.L.)** San Diego, California  
 1995-1997                      **Niigata University**                      Niigata City, Japan  
 1995-1997                      **Niigata English Center**                      Niigata City, Japan  
 1994-1995                      **Aso Foreign Travel College**                      Fukuoka City, Japan  
 1991-1992                      **AEON Intercultural Corporation**                      Niigata City, Japan  
 1989-1990                      **Californian Institute of Bordeaux**                      Bordeaux, France

#### **Awards**

- **Los Angeles Valley College Monarch Award as an outstanding employee**, May 2014
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Support of Disabled Students Programs and Services**, Woodland Community College (March 2013)
- **Letter of Appreciation for Work with Student Learning Outcomes Committee**, Woodland Community College (March 2013)
- **U.C.L.A. School of Education Outstanding Dissertation Award** (June 2010)  
 Graduate School of Education and Information Studies Department of Education
- **Nominee, Student Success Award** - Long Beach City College (December 2010)
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Accreditation Work** - Long Beach City College, 2008
- **Nominee, NISOD Faculty Award** - Long Beach City College, 2007
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service**  
 University of California, San Diego Extension Education Department (January 2005)
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service**. U.C.S.D. English Language Program (July 2004)
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service** U.C.S.D. Extended Studies Education Department (June 2003)
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service** U.C.S.D. Extended Studies Education Department (June 2002)

### **Conferences Attended, Professional Development Activities**

- California League CEO Symposium – 2022, 2023
- California League Chief Executive Officers Conference, Spring 2022 (This included the state's new CEO training)
- California League New CEO Workshop, Summer 2020
- Statewide Strategic Enrollment Management Conference, Summer 2020
- ACCJC Bi-Annual Conference (Including ALO Training/sessions), Spring 2019
- California League Legislative Conference, Spring 2017, 2023
- California Community Colleges Chief Instruction Officers Conference, 2011, 2016-20
- Curriculum Institute, 2016, 2019
- AALRR Education Law Conference, 2016 & 2017
- California Community Colleges Student Success Conference, Spring 2016
- Los Angeles Community College District Deans Academy, Fall 2015
- Southern California Enrollment Management Conference hosted by ACBO, August, 2015
- Presented at UCLA Educational Leadership Program's Fundraising Conference, June, 2015
- Presented Self-Designed LAVC Scheduling Resources at Los Angeles Valley College Department Chair Trainings, February, 2015
- Guest Speaker on Educational Leadership, California Community College Apportionment System for Doctoral Leadership Course, University of Tennessee, August, 2014
- District Accreditation Training and Certification Session, May, 2014
- California Community College Academic Dean's Retreat, September 2013
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Annual Statewide Budget Workshop, July 2014
- Essentials of Supervision Training Series, Los Angeles Community College District, 2013-2014
- Facilitated Keys to Teaching College to High School Students Panel, L.A. Valley College, August 2013
- Made Library Partnership and Joint Use Library Proposal Presentation to Yuba Community College District Board of Trustees, January 2013.
- Served as Panelist at Colusa County Partners in Education Conference. October 2012
- Completed Administration 101 Academy held by the Association of California Community College Administrators, July 2012 (Current ACCCA Member)
- Presented The Role of the Community College President in Fundraising via webinar in conjunction with the Clements Group, February 2011
- Attended the California Community College Chief Instructional Officers 411 Preconference and Annual Conference, October 2011
- Presented The Role of the President in Community College Fundraising: A Best Practices Study at the Council for Resource Development Annual Conference, Washington D.C.; November 2010.
- Guest Speaker for UCLA Educational Leadership Program Research Course, November 2010
- Panelist, UCLA Educational Leadership Program, November 2010
- Panelist, UCLA Educational Leadership Program at Los Angeles City College, October 2010
- Co-Presented at Council for the Study of Community Colleges Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington; April 2010 on Community College Fundraising: The Voluntary Support of Education Survey as a Sampling Tool for Research.
- Attended CB21 Coding Conference for Non-Credit Education in Community Colleges, September 2009
- Attended Council for Resource Development's Presidents Fundraising Workshop in San Francisco, July 2009

- Panelist, Long Beach City College New Faculty Orientation, August 2008
- Attended California Community College Association for Occupational Education Conference, October 2007
- California State Academic Senate Leadership Institute, June 2007
- Presented Overview of ESL Classes: A Presentation for the English Department in October 2006 at Long Beach City College
- Presented ESL Grading Techniques, March 2005, Long Beach City College
- Guest Speaker, University of California Extension Teacher Education Program, 2003-2004
- Presented at 1998 Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference on ESL Writing Feedback and Communicative Language Activities
- Guest Speaker, Opening Ceremony, Niigata City Marathon, Japan, 1997

### **Languages**

- Fluent in English and French
- Proficient in Spanish and Japanese

### **Publications, Writing Contributions**

- Prepared Logic Model for Media Arts and Performing Arts Business Plan for Los Angeles Valley College that was submitted to the LACCD Board of Trustees
- Served as point person, “One Voice” author of Woodland Community College’s 5-year Strategic Plan, 2012
- Wrote Relational Model for Woodland Chamber of Commerce’s Business Education Taskforce, October 2011
- Wrote Logic Model for Resource Development Aspect of Achieving the Dream Program for the Los Angeles Community College District, January 2011
- Co-Published “Community College Fundraising: The Voluntary Support of Education Survey as a Sampling Tool for Research” in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice, December 2010 issue.
- Published “Make Your College’s Day (Fiscally Speaking) by Participating in the VSE Dispatch: The News Magazine of the Council for Resource Development, Winter, 2010
- Wrote ESL Grading Rubrics for Long Beach City College as well as Student Learning Outcomes and accompanying assessments for eight courses within the department.
- Wrote course materials for University of California, San Diego’s ESL Program. Work included Business Writing, Advanced Oral Communication Skills, Intermediate Reading, and Intermediate and Advanced-Level TOEFL Preparation Course TextPackets.