

Valencia College Presidential Search

Presidential Leadership Qualifications - Student Focus Group Feedback

Listening Session Questions:

- Based on your experience at Valencia, what do you see as the **short-term (immediate) & long-term (three to five years)** challenges and opportunities facing the next President?
 - Challenges:
 - Opportunities:
- What are the characteristics and qualities that you think will make a President most successful?
- What are the immediate initiatives that the next President should address? (SGA question)
- What would you like the next President to know about your Valencia (& surrounding) Community?

3-5 years Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- ST/LT: Safety – COVID ; how will the campus react to this – student comfortable and safe
- ST/LT: Connection and connectivity of students and faculty – socially cohesive culture
- ST: Social Changes
- LT: Focusing on helping students with financial needs
- ST/LT: Environmental responsibility – i.e. cafeteria and straws for convenience
- LT: commitment to inclusion and diversity and the desire
- ST: Create environment where faculty are not concerned to share their thoughts and feelings in adversarial or biased (racially, gender, ethnically biased, etc.) environments without persecution from Administrators
- ST/LT: New atmosphere that no one has experienced - Communication
- Technology Age – has to be up on innovation, continuing virtual classes especially with convenience
- Technology Challenges & Access to Technology (including internet access)
- Safety Protocols for on campus courses
- Anticipate new challenges
- Create a classroom environment in a virtual environment, with social aspect too
- Financial assistance, awareness due to lack of work opportunities due to COVID
- Faculty expectations and support of student workloads, understanding in this environment
- Faculty equally trained in online program delivery and accessible to all students; need better standards for online courses – improve online classes
- Communication of upcoming events
- Long term – a program like Best Buddies – support for OSD
- Prepare the college for unexpected
- Inspire & attract international students – advocate for online availability of courses
- Grow the college larger, create other campuses – online
- More Tech training for all professors
- More advisors needed, especially Honors

- Dealing with CoVid19
 - o What's best for students and faculty
- Engagement
 - o how will they engage the students
 - o what will the community be like
 - o how do we make the college experience for students
- Civil Unrest
 - o Where do we stand
 - o Allyship to activism
- Bringing the community closer
 - o Feeling the Valencia Community again

Opportunity:

- Promoting social justice and climate-resilient policies in CFL
- Set precedent for how
- Start leading instead of following other colleges - start own projects and initiative
- Promoting our nontraditional classes - i.e. culinary program
- SD & SGA CW bigger communication as a whole
- More connections and collaborations as well as awareness for the whole college Inspire & attract international students- advocate for online availability of courses
- Grow the college larger, create other campuses - online
- Create community at all campuses
- Demonstrate appreciation of staff and focus on promoting within as good talent
- Bouncing back from online mode (CoVid19)
 - o Rebuilding & restarting new trust
 - o New normal - acknowledge the transition
 - o Learning from what does not work
- International Students
 - o New students coming into the country
 - o Current students not in country
 - o What will classes look like for them

Characteristics & Qualities of Successful President

- Someone willing to listen to everyone including SGA and the student body and being willing to implement changes
- Presence with students (in actual sessions with students - 1x a month?); emotional connection to students
- Someone who genuinely cares; compassion; empathy; respect & concern
- Cooperative
- Communication
- Encouraging
- Transparency
- Balancing multiple aspects & priorities of college
- Resiliency
- Strong personal and professional academic background Understanding of students as people and needs
- Fighting for International students

- Approachable, Smiling, cares about the students
- Respect Diversity
- Servant Leader
- Advocate for the College
- Advocate for students with disabilities to ensure inclusion
- Relatability, willing to share their own experiences to connect with students
- Charisma
- Compassion
- Good Administrator & Leader
- Respectful of others
- Responsible
- Creative
- Empathic & demonstrates care for students
- Patience
- Desire to improve the college & make a good college experience
- Acknowledge & support international students
- Good sense of community with the all of the students
- Able to listen and learn
- Understand different perspectives and find different solutions
- Be open and communicate well and frequently
- Ensure all students feel welcomed
- Patience
- Open minded
- Inclusivity
- Level Headiness
- Accepting different viewpoints
- Effective Communicator
- Developing & Maintaining a team
- Be unbiased
- Leadership
- Take in community perspective
- Emotional intelligence
- Show support the students
- Inspirational
- Not afraid to take risk
- Positive Attitude

Immediate Initiatives for President to address

- Social Justice
- ***Commitment to inclusion and diversity
- Awareness, inclusion, equality
- Access to college
- Student Engagement (community)
- Mental Health Awareness
- ***Financial needs of students – better communication and awareness
- Immigration
- Education on Implicit Bias

- ***Sustainability Efforts (efficient and cost effective methods as well)
- Community – start awareness/concentrate more with younger students
- Moving the community forwards as a community leader by advocating for change to improve conditions for all

What would like the next president to know about Valencia and the community

- Students are not just students, but people with lives and concerns outside – look at like a family member – goes beyond a title
- Students LOVE Valencia and want change for the better
- Students are open, passionate, understanding but confident in what we know and what we want from each other
- Hard time for many students with finances & classes
- Students want to know what is happening
- Someone who is willing to advocate for students' needs – Take action
- The SGA is here for them
- LNC is growing community – address opportunities for growth
- Their duty is to listen so they can represent
- Willing to work equally with all campuses
- Valencia College is diverse, bring opportunity to all students, staff, & faculty
- Work equally with different degree paths regardless of size and direction
- Time of change - important to show leadership when needed
- Expected to demonstrate leadership
- ****Osceola is community oriented – like a family
- Creating & enhancing connections at all campuses & the whole college is deeply important for all students – **Foster sense of FAMILY
- *Everyone is family and we stand as one
- College has a LOT of talented staff
- Request - Improve inter-campus communication throughout the year
- We are diverse! In every way. They love it and want to learn from each other
- *Staff is understanding and knowledgeable
- Change comes from leadership – needs to demonstrate connection and unity to Valencia to continue to foster sense of understanding and community
- Sense of Community and interact regularly EVEN in virtual environment
- Diverse community
- Artistic
- Campuses are well connected
- We are family
- Students are ambitious and are willing to put in the hard work
- Different dynamics at each campus
- Situations are unique (international students, first gen, transportation issues, etc)
- Each campus has different needs
- Understand who is in the community
- Who is directly affected
- Students are willing to do whatever it takes to achieve goals and dreams (even through rough times like now) and they want assistance in doing so