

## ACCJC Peer Review Team Bios

### Fall 2023 Visit

---

#### **TEAM CHAIR - Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College:**



Dr. Rachel Solemsaas was appointed chancellor of Hawai'i Community College in 2016. She previously served as the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services at Truckee Meadows Community College in Nevada. Prior to that appointment, she was Vice President for Administrative Services at Bellevue College and Vice President for Finance and Operations at Edmonds Community College, both in Washington. Dr. Solemsaas earned a doctorate of education in higher education with an emphasis on community college leadership from Washington State University and a master's in public administration from the University of Washington. She earned a bachelor of science in accounting from De La Salle University in Manila. Dr. Solemsaas is serving as Board Director for the American Association of Community College. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 2-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students.

---

#### **VICE CHAIR – Dr. Lloyd A. Holmes, President, De Anza College:**



Dr. Lloyd A. Holmes became president of De Anza College on July 1, 2020. He is the college's fourth president since its founding in 1967. Before joining De Anza, Dr. Holmes was vice president of student services at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y., part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system of two- and four-year schools. He also provided statewide leadership in the SUNY system by mentoring other colleges on a student success initiative and serving on a statewide task force on student hunger. Dr. Holmes was previously an administrator at North Shore Community College in Massachusetts, Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina and the University of Mississippi. He has taught graduate and undergraduate students, and worked as a residence hall adviser, financial aid adviser, coordinator of student wellness and alcohol and drug abuse programs, and dean of students. Dr. Holmes grew up in Mississippi, where he earned an associate degree at Itawamba Community College and a bachelor's degree at the University of Mississippi – both in accounting. He continued his studies at the University of Mississippi by earning a master's degree in higher education and student personnel services, followed by a doctorate in educational leadership.

---

#### **Ms. Grace Commiso, Counselor, Bakersfield College:**



Grace has a Masters in Social Work from Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey, and has been dedicated to student learning and success in higher education for over 15 years. Grace spent 7 years working for Rutgers University where she developed and implemented a peer mentor program and oversaw the implementation of new student orientation, including advising and registration, before becoming the Assistant Dean of Students managing early alert and student conduct. Grace joined the Bakersfield College team in 2013. In her time at Bakersfield College, Grace has served as the Temporary Assistant Director for EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs, full-time tenure track faculty Counselor with a focus on early alert, and from 2016 to 2019 Grace served as the Dean of Student Success & Counseling. In her tenure as Dean, she was responsible for several student support areas including Academic Support Services, Counseling, Student Conduct, Testing & Placement, and Student Health & Wellness. During that time, Grace also served as co-chair for BC's Guided Pathways Implementation Team, as well as admin lead for the Implementation of Starfish. In 2019, Grace retreated back to faculty where she now serves as a tenured faculty Counselor in the General Counseling Department, with a focus on student success tools such as Starfish. Lastly, Grace is the Faculty Chair for Guided Pathways at BC and has been the Faculty Chair for BC's Accreditation and Institutional Quality committee for the past 4 years.

---