

**Western Political Science Association Conference
San Diego 2019**

Mini-Conference for Community College Faculty “Community College – The Unsung
Hero of Higher Education”

One-day conference Saturday April 20th 2019

This is the second year of the Mini-Conference for Community College at the Western Political Science Association. Community college faculty have an opportunity to engage with the WPSA community by participating in the conference and taking Saturday to participate in the mini-conference. For this year, we are looking to expand the conference to a full day. This year the American Political Science Association sponsors lunch for attendees. The key element of the mini-conference is to provide a space for community college faculty to engage with each other and share ideas. Discussants for each panel are obliged to create an environment of interaction with all colleagues. The goal for the mini-conference is to bring faculty with interests from various subfields in political science as well as teaching. While teaching is central to community college faculty, researching is also important; and therefore, we want to address all aspects of community college life from the perspective of its faculty. The uniqueness of community college teaching is explored through various angles throughout the day.

Having more discussants in our panels provides for a more creative and substantive discussion. If you are interested in participating in the Mini-Conference, please contact Elsa Dias elsa.dias@ppcc.edu We look forward to seeing you in San Diego.

8:00am-8:10am LaDella Levy Introduction to the conference

8:15am 9:15am— Social sciences, and in particular Political Science, are experiencing a decline in enrollment nation wide. What is our role in Community Colleges regarding teaching, recruiting, and promoting our discipline? What strategies are we using in our classrooms that we can share that help improve enrollment? What can we learn from graduate students regarding their interest in the discipline?

Co-Chair: LaDella Levy and Peter Bowman

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9:25am-10:30am— How to build a political science program by creating interdisciplinary programs; e.g. Global Studies, Women Studies, LGBTQ, etc? How can we work on making programs transferable? How can we improve student interest in political science courses as well as civic activity? How can Guided Pathways provide for an alternative to increase interest in political science?

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Lee and Masahiro Omae

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10:35am 11:30am— When we, community college faculty, attend conferences—e.g. WPSA, APSA, or other political science conferences—what do we expect from that experience? What research interests us? How can we balance teaching, research and professional development? What do we want from that conference? How can we more effectively share our ideas and our concerns? How can we help create a space for us and make sure that our interests and needs are being met at the conference? How can we make conferences accessible to adjunct faculty?

Co-Chairs: Elsa Dias and Robert Ballinger

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11:35am-12:00pm – Brief discussion by the WPSA and the APSA representatives.

12:15pm Lunch – APSA Sponsored Lunch (Elsa Favila is coordinating the lunch)

12:45pm-2pm— Teaching and Learning Focused on Assignments and Internships
How are our research interests helping to create assignments? We should share ideas regarding assignments and identify how we can have effective internships that help Community College students and that will transfer to 4-year schools. Given that community college faculty teach a variety of subfields, how can we help each other develop assignments and staying up to date with political science subfields?

Co-Chairs: Robert Ballinger and Dino Bozonelos

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2:10pm—3:45pm— Teaching and Learning focused on Classroom management and Student feedback

What do students want from a political science class? What teaching strategies are working with the Z generation? How are we managing diversity and how do we define it? How can graduate students help us understand our students? How can we create a welcoming space in our classrooms for introducing graduate students to teaching in community colleges?

Co-Chairs: Katherine Michel and Josh Franco

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