

Profile

Maisha N. Jones, Ed.D.
Dean of People, Culture, and Society

I am blessed to lead with power and love alongside colleagues committed to social justice. I cultivate brave spaces to unpack courageous conversations centered on inclusion. This is evident in my scholarly research focusing on Black Male Student Success in Community Colleges, and academic presentations highlighting Self-Preservation Strategies for Culturally Relevant Leadership. I demonstrate my passion by partnering with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Silicon Valley Chapter to advocate for equitable outcomes in education, economic empowerment, health, and public policy for Black women and girls. It is an exquisite joy to be in service at Mission College and the surrounding community! My most significant achievement in my first 90 days was securing subject matter experts to advise an interdisciplinary team of faculty in developing five new Ethnic Studies courses in three weeks, while simultaneously proposing and prioritizing a full-time tenure-track faculty hire within six months and nurturing a sustainable relationship with SJSU faculty to provide a smooth transfer pathway before the end of my first year.

Academic integrity, excellence, and achievement are the cornerstone of my core principles and values. My undergraduate and graduate experiences enhanced my ability to engage in critical thinking and reflection to solve problems. My doctorate experience fostered my capacity to navigate political landscapes, better understand organizational management, and gain a broader perspective of the strengths and challenges along the pathway from post-secondary to secondary educational success. My academic journey culminated in a dissertation to published article and a variety of presentations focused on institutional assets and liabilities that significantly impact underrepresented students. Did I mention, I am a proud community college alumnus, who literally grew up, academically, personally, and professionally in my community at local public institutions???

I worked as a classified professional in the Financial Aid Office for approximately 10 years. I am most proud of the SHero award bestowed upon me by 51st Council District of Los Angeles, for hosting Cash for College workshops to assist with FAFSA completion and submission, demystify the application process, and provide information about scholarships and grants. I also played a critical role in the annual audits for Federal, State, and Local financial aid awards. I later joined a team of faculty dedicated to de-colonizing the curriculum and engage in anti-racist curriculum development supported by the Guided Pathways framework. I am humbled that my colleagues in the Academic Senate recognized these efforts and voted to honor me with the 2022 Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award! I interfaced with staff and administration in the Dual-Enrollment and Promise programs, specifically to address the needs of our LAUSD and other district partners leading to exponential growth. In my role as Acting Dean, I quickly stepped in to secure human and financial resources to support the Liberal Arts Division with equity funding for the infrastructure of our Dual Enrollment and Honors' Programs, which significantly contributed to the enrollment growth and recovery for the college. We hosted an outreach event where we invited over 300 students from nine LAUSD campuses for a visit to increase their

sense of belonging, boost their confidence, enhance the college-going culture, and promote our Career and Technical Education and other academic programs. Even after leaving the institution, I was told that my efforts manifested in the granting of funds to provide training for Dual Enrollment educators and support contractual language to provide stipends for faculty teaching off-site and with secondary partners on campus. I am aware that given adequate support, resources, guidance, and training, there are no limits to what we may collectively accomplish on behalf of our most deserving constituents.

I am excited to embark on a journey of integrating wellness with work. While I sometimes feel overwhelmed and consumed with my administrative responsibilities, I am learning how to incorporate my workout routine and meal prepping as a means of decompressing and finding joy. I love water; it is healing for me, so I take every chance to go for a walk or bike ride at the beach, swim or luxuriate in the jacuzzi (or hot bubble bath). I find pleasure in the simple mundane tasks, and without contradiction plan annual international trips to immerse myself in different cultures (self-proclaimed foodie). I also escape in music and dance, and that is how I allow my creativity to provide refuge from the structure and routine of work.