

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College Names Vice President

Hernandez to lead educational programs.

(Seattle, WA) South Seattle Community College has announced the selection of Wallingford resident Jean Hernandez, Ed.D., as vice president for Instruction.

Dr. Hernandez, who assumed the post July 1, will provide leadership and direction for all instructional programs, including academic, professional/technical, distance learning, ABE/ESL, continuing education, Worker Retraining, NewHolly Learning Center, and the college's Georgetown Campus. She will also provide leadership for implementing new programs responsive to community needs, while ensuring that a continuous improvement process is conducted for current programs.



A native of New Braunfels, Texas, Dr. Hernandez is a higher education veteran with more than 25 years experience as a teacher, counselor, director and administrator. She most recently held the position of executive vice president for Student Learning at Cascadia Community College. Prior to that, she held several positions at Shoreline Community College including acting vice president for Academic Affairs, dean of the Health Occupations division, and faculty member in multicultural studies.

Raised by parents who were first generation Texans, Dr. Hernandez was inspired by their commitment to education and service. Although neither advanced beyond the eighth grade, they were dedicated to opening educational doors for others – her father as a member of the local school board and both as volunteer ESL and citizenship tutors.

This commitment to providing access to education is a hallmark of Dr. Hernandez's career. She is widely recognized as an advocate of student retention and success, with a strong focus on pluralism and cultural diversity.

“It’s about making students a priority, and removing barriers as much as we can,” she says of her educational philosophy. “And we want education to be a positive experience. We don’t want students leaving because we’re not responsive.”

Dr. Hernandez holds a doctorate of education from the University of Washington, and earned her bachelor of science (cum laude) and master of education degrees from the University of North Texas. She is active in numerous community organizations, as a member of the Seattle King County Workforce Development Council’s Youth Council and chair of the Girl Scout’s Latina Initiatives Committee. She also served on the Girl Scouts — Totem Council’s (GS-TC) Board of Directors from 2003-2005. In honor of her parents, she has established the Patricio L. & Hortensia B. Hernandez Leadership Scholarship at Braunfels High School.

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