



Community Colleges of Spokane
Spokane Community College

Vice President of Instruction
Finalist Biography

Dr. Marcia Wong Somer, Ph.D.



Dr. Marcia Somer has worked in higher education's community and technical colleges for the past 25 years. Her most recent experience was as Associate Dean of Instruction at Lake Washington Institute of Technology in Kirkland, Washington. Prior to that, Dr. Somer was a Dean of English and Social Sciences and Dean of Instruction at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California, and Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Washington respectively. Dr. Somer has overseen many technical workforce programs such as architectural and mechanical design, computer networking and systems security, web and animation design and production, education, culinary and baking arts, wine technology, business, and dental and dental hygiene. She has also overseen basic skills, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, campus child care center, library, tutoring and assessment centers, and continuing education.

As a leader, Dr. Somer has engaged in several key projects such as chairing the college's self-study for accreditation, spearheading the 5 Year All-Campus Diversity Plan, and planning the design of the Child and Family Education Center.

Connecting with the college's surrounding community is important to Dr. Somer. Her past involvement with the community include being a member of Kirkland Chamber of Commerce's Kirkland Promise, member of the Clover Park School District's Technical Education Advisory Committee, and working with the parent cooperative preschool boards.

Dr. Somer also shares her knowledge, research, and experiences through conference presentations. She has presented at conferences such as, The Chair's Academy International Conference and the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE).

Prior to Dr. Somer's administrative positions, she was an Assistant Professor of Human Development for 9 years at Kapiolani Community College in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a Professor of Early Childhood Education for 7 years at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia, Washington.

Dr. Somer's educational background includes a Doctorate of Philosophy from Oregon State University in Education – Community College Leadership, Master of Arts in Child and Family Studies from Washington State University, and Bachelor of Science in Human Development from the University of Hawaii.

Three of her proudest accomplishments are establishing a diversity course graduation requirement, receiving the Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Education, and parenting two children, both graduates of Western Washington University.

All College Forum: April 19, 2017

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: SCC Lair, Sasquatch Rooms

Faculty Forum: April 19, 2017

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Location: SCC Lair, Sasquatch Rooms