Dr. Brian Sanders
Monday, November 27, 2023
3:25pm – 4:25pm – Finalist Forum
Link to Forum

(https://www.youtube.com/@yosemitecommunitycollegedi8320)

Dr. Brian Sanders has served Modesto Junior College and the Yosemite Community College District for almost 30 years. Beyond Modesto, he is recognized across California's community colleges for his leadership, innovation, and extensive knowledge of the community college system. His experiences have provided a wealth of opportunities to learn and grow and contributed to significant change and improvement for California's community college students.

Dr. Sanders began his career in fall of 1994 as a part-time mathematics instructor at Modesto Junior College (MJC). The following year, he moved to Modesto to join MJC as a full-time mathematics faculty member, purchased a home, and started a family. He became Dean of the Science, Mathematics, and Engineering division in 2008 and gained experience in scheduling, evaluations, and facilities construction and remodeling, funded by the Measure E bond. For six years, he served as Vice President of Instruction (VPI) at MJC's sister institution, Columbia College, within the Yosemite Community College District. As VPI at a smaller institution, he was intimately involved in all aspects of the college, from student services to facilities, food service to physics, outreach and marketing to enrollment management reports and data dashboards. He served as the chief architect of integrated planning and accreditation efforts, worked effectively with participatory governance councils, and led the development of the college's Strategic Plan and Educational Master Plan. As Accreditation Liaison Officer, he coordinated development of the college's self-evaluation, midterm, substantive change, and annual reports. He has served on five accreditation site visit teams across California and the Pacific Islands and helped develop the new 2024 Standards for the Accrediting Commission. He has been highly successful in aligning his colleges' operations with the Standards in a manner that is unique to and supported by the college's constituents.

In June of 2022, Dr. Sanders returned to MJC to serve as VPI in an interim capacity. There, he has celebrated the rich diversity of the MJC community, championed expansion of dual enrollment and the nursing program, trained new deans and directors, implemented the college's transition from Divisions to Schools as a key component of Guided Pathways, improved the online catalog, and deployed Program Mapper to guide students' journeys. He has reengaged the college with community partners, established new partnerships, and regularly speaks to community groups to share the successes of Modesto Junior College.

He is a creative and collaborative problem-solver, working closely with constituent groups and community partners to develop mutually supportive solutions to challenging problems. Examples include expanding dual enrollment, serving incarcerated students, returning enrollments to pre-pandemic levels, and extensive experience applying for, receiving, and guiding grant projects.

Dr. Sanders also serves in statewide leadership roles with the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional

Officers, the Chancellor's Office Fiscal Advisory Workgroup, the Student Metrics Advisory Committee, and the Climate and Sustainability Task Force. Through this work he is well versed in the Student-Centered Funding Formula and the impacts of state regulations on local practice. His insights and courteous diligence in collaborating with state leaders have led to significant modifications to regulations and practices improving district funding and expanding options for students.

He is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of North Modesto, host of the American Graffiti Festival and Car Show each summer. He regularly participates with the Modesto community through service, events, and fundraisers for nonprofit agencies. In his spare time, he enjoys concerts, kayaking, Broadway shows, baseball, and competing in World League FlingGolf.