

March 28, 2024

Hello Academic Senate Members,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the position of Honors Program Chair Faculty Lead here at San Bernardino Valley College for the 2024-2027 cycle. With my experience in academia and a fervent dedication to fostering academic excellence, I am confident in my ability to contribute significantly to the continued success and growth of the Honors Program.

I am the Chair of the Political Science Department and I teach both political science and history. I have been here at Valley (full-time) since 2016. I have taught at several colleges and have experience working with students of all levels of abilities, from first-year experience and first gen to honors students, who excel in college. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing guidance and support to both faculty and students. As an educator, I have worked closely with faculty members in various capacities, fostering collaboration and ensuring the quality of academic programs. My experience includes collaborating with department chairs to align faculty expertise with program needs and objectives, thus enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

In addition to my collaborative skills, I have detailed experience with curriculum development. I have actively contributed to the creation of new courses for the political science department, as well as the creation of a new degree. I have provided valuable insights into the design and implementation of a new honors course for political science. Recruitment and retention are vital aspects of any successful academic program, and I am committed to spearheading efforts to attract and retain talented students in the Honors Program. My experience in coordinating recruitment initiatives (hiring adjuncts in the political science department) and engaging with prospective students will be instrumental in expanding the reach and visibility of the program.

I am particularly drawn to the opportunity to manage the Honors budget, as well as to prepare and manage Honors information across various media platforms. I understand the importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date information for Honors students and ensuring effective communication channels. In addition to budget management and information dissemination, I am enthusiastic about the prospect of representing the Honors Program at meetings of relevant honors organizations such as UCLA TAP and the Honors Transfer Council of California. Collaborating with esteemed colleagues and staying informed about developments in the honors community will enable me to contribute fresh perspectives and ideas to our program. Planning and organizing workshops, seminars, and informational sessions tailored to the interests of Honors students is another aspect of the role that excites me. Moreover, I understand the importance of active participation in relevant college groups and committees for recruitment and curricular matters. By engaging with various stakeholders, I aim to advocate for the interests of the Honors Program and contribute to its continuous improvement and success.

I am interested in this position because I believe that I can make a difference. I have the social and academic skills to work with honors students and faculty. Furthermore, I am well-

equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of chairing the Honors Committee and overseeing scholarship programs. I am dedicated to staying abreast of current trends and best practices in honors education, thereby enriching the Honors Program and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

In conclusion, I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the Honors Program Chair Faculty Lead. My passion for academic excellence, coupled with my extensive experience and skills, make me well-suited for this role. I am eager to contribute to the success of the Honors Program. I am prepared to fulfill the duties outlined in the position description and am committed to upholding the values and objectives of the Honors Program.

Thank you for considering my application,

Dr. Lisa Henkle