



To: SBVC Academic Senate

From: Nori Sogomonian

Date: March 26, 2024

Re: Honors Program Chair Faculty Lead

Dear SBVC Academic Senate,

I am writing to express my interest in the role of Honors Program Chair Faculty Lead. I understand that the role is a three-year term wherein the responsibilities include maintaining and promoting the academic and curricular aspects of the Honors Program.

I have reviewed the responsibilities included in the roles and duties of the faculty lead and in most areas, I am confident that I can fulfill those responsibilities while other areas may require some learning and training that I am willing to do.

I currently serve as Modern Languages Department (MLD) faculty co-chair. I have been teaching Spanish honors courses since fall 2005 when the only MLD Honors offering was Spanish 103. In 2015 I updated our curriculum so we could have Spanish 101 Honors classes and Spanish 102 Honors classes. I have taught stacked sections of all levels of Spanish Honors classes our department offers. As an Honors faculty I have seen the program grow, shrink, and grow again either in terms of Honors course offerings or Honors students and faculty. I've stayed connected with faculty leads to continue to promote our Honors courses and I see the tireless work they provide to ensure both faculty and students receive quality guidance, opportunities, and relevant information regarding the program. I have seen the effort involved in keeping the program running smoothly and in recruitment. Should I be selected, I would work with the current chair to maintain momentum of growing the program.

I have attended some of the Honors events such as campus tours and the UCLA TAP events in the past and would like to continue that tradition. The Modern Languages Department Sigma Delta Mu Spanish Honor Society for outstanding students in Spanish has provided me experience with organizing events, promoting, and fund raising. Our annual ceremony is on a smaller scale than the campus Honors program, however, I believe I can bring those organizational skills to the honors faculty lead position.

I am a member of the Fulbright Association, having served as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Central America in Managua, Nicaragua early in my career at SBVC in 1999. I understand the

application process for such opportunities and for scholarships and one of my goals is to encourage and guide students in applying for academic scholarships, internships, and other honors such as attending selected conferences. Having participated as a foreign exchange student, it is also important to me to promote study abroad opportunities for students.

I have been a full-time faculty at SBVC for 30 years. I have had one sabbatical in 2003. I have earned the level of full professor. In 2007 I entered the California State University, San Bernardino Educational Leadership program and completed my Educational Doctorate Degree in 2011. My dissertation addresses Academic Self Efficacy and Persistence in the Context of High Stakes Testing. As faculty lead, I would use my doctoral experience to assist students with their research projects and applications to their transfer institutions.

In the role of Honors Faculty Lead I would work closely with fellow faculty chairs, honors faculty, deans, and administrators to ensure that we maintain a quality, equitable program and that we continue to serve and provide access to our diverse population so that we may grow and sustain the honors program.

I am happy to provide any other information you may require or answer questions regarding my qualifications.

Thank you for your attention.

Nori Sogomonian, MA, EdD
Modern Languages Department Faculty Co-Chair/Spanish Professor