

Sean C. Partridge

April 23, 2023

Dear Search Committee:

It is with great excitement that I submit this application for the Associate Vice President for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives position at Monroe Community College. Over the last three decades, I have worked in a variety of capacities to create, implement, assess, and evolve a wide range of student support, success, and retention programs for diverse populations of students. I believe my experience aligns very well with the Assistant Vice President's responsibilities and that my creativity, energy, commitment to student success, and desire for professional and personal growth would make me an excellent fit.

Throughout my career, I have worked to provide access and equity in education through programs such as EOP, CSTEP, McNair, and TRIO Student Support Services. It has long been a goal of mine to move into the community college sector, a place where students undergo amazing personal and professional transformation. My research into MCC shows an institution with a clear sense of mission and goals and a well-articulated strategic plan for making those goals a reality. In support of the College's goals, I believe I bring a set of experiences to the Student Success team that is both wide and deep. These include:

- Coordination of college-wide retention efforts as chair of the college's Retention Committee, the Diversity in Action Coalition, the Advising Task Force, the First-Year Transitions Task Force, and the Supporting Student Success Task Force as well as a member of the Enrollment Management Strategic Planning Committee.
- As co-chair of the Advising Task Force, created a mission statement, a definition of good advising, a college philosophy on advising, and a series of recommendations to improve advising with a goal of reducing time to degree and increasing persistence and completion. Created a Lead Advisor training model overseen by representatives of all three schools at the college. Formulated a plan for assessment of advising.
- Collaborative leader with experience in Residence Life; Student Affairs; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Academic Affairs; Student Services; and the Research Foundation of SUNY.
- More than 15 years of grant management experience with state and federal programs as well as private foundations. Secured and managed over \$5 million in funding. Consistently exceeded grant goals and outcomes.

- Dynamic leadership of Orientation and First-Year Transitions, First-Year Programs, Accommodative Services, Bridges, Educational Opportunity Program, Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program, TRIO Student Support Services, Academic Mentoring, Tutoring and Academic Support, Academic Services, Academic Advising, Student Care Fund, Military and Veteran Services, and Adult Learner Support.
- Management of an array of support services for a multiple-site SUNY institution. Potsdam currently operates its main campus, an extension campus in Watertown, and a degree program at the NYS Riverview Correctional Facility.
- Project management of the successful implementation and ongoing management of two student success software platforms (Navigate and Starfish), both involving collaboration with a team of stakeholders from across campus.
- Experience working within, and in collaboration with, various divisions of the college including Enrollment Management, DEI, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs to meet the needs of students.
- Utilize data-driven decision-making in continuous assessment processes. Assessment initiatives using SIS data, Navigate/Starfish reports, student and staff surveys, focus groups, and interviews to support evidence-based decision-making in pursuit of college, unit, and department goals and objectives.
- Member of college-wide strategic planning committees for Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs, and DEI. Member of the steering committees for the Facilities Master Plan and for the multi-year Middle States Accreditation process.
- Creation and administration of successful high-impact supports such as Academic Support Recitations for high-DFW courses, Peer Academic Coaches, the Northbound Peer Orientation and Transition Mentors, professional Academic Mentors, First-Year Seminars, early alerts, campus-wide advising workshops, and the transition of a range of college processes to an online environment.
- Supervision of a diverse group of professional, administrative, and student staff. Responsible for ongoing training and professional development as well as annual evaluation of UUP, CSEA, and Research Foundation employees.
- Member of the college's Behavioral Evaluation Committee to address student wellness emergencies.
- Currently charged with managing strategic projects for the Provost including review and revitalization of tutoring services, academic mentoring, and tutoring services.

My entire professional career has been devoted to ensuring that students make a smooth transition to college life, helping them to build successes along the way that open doors to

amazing co-curricular experiences, and preparing them for their next adventure. I am passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of students, which makes this opportunity even more attractive. The programs offered at MCC are meaningfully linked to the needs of the community and provide opportunities for upward mobility in high-demand career fields.

As a supervisor, I strive to create a work environment where my staff feels comfortable, supported, and challenged. Clear expectations and communication are essential to the success of any team and I prioritize both. Additionally, I place a high value on understanding the strengths of each team member as well as their individual professional goals and work to make sure that each staff member is able to grow and move forward.

A SUNY alumnus and long-time employee of several units within the system with a passion for equity and opportunity in higher education, I am fully committed to the mission, goals, and values of MCC. I believe I have the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience to be able to hit the ground running on day one and I truly look forward to being able to support MCC students and the Student Success staff in pursuit of their goals.

I would be happy to talk more as you move forward. I wish you the best of luck in your search process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Partridge". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Sean Partridge