



- Your name: Lina S Germann
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- Phone number: 505-395-6382
- City/area of primary residence: Santa Fe County
- Age and date of birth: 53 years old
- Party affiliation: Democrat
- Educational background:
 - Ph.D. in Chemistry (Boston College, 1997), MBA (UNM, 2004)
- Occupation: STEM Educator and Founder of STEM Santa Fe
- Political experience: None
- Have you ever been charged or convicted of a crime, including drunken driving? No
- Have you ever filed for bankruptcy or been involved in a bankruptcy proceeding, either personally or in business? No
- Have you ever been the subject of liens for unpaid taxes? No
- Relevant life experience:
 - Founder and CEO (2016-2023) of STEM Santa Fe, an award-winning 501(c)3 nonprofit
 - Adjunct faculty at SFCC for 6 years and a non-degree student for many years
 - Experienced educator and non-profit executive
 - First in my family to go to college with the deep conviction that education is the way to close the cycle on poverty
 - A mother who raised two boys in Santa Fe and through Santa Fe Public Schools and who attended classes at SFCC
 - A forward-thinker and interested in initiatives in education reform
 - 26 years of activism and community organizing in Northern New Mexico
 - A life-long learner and with a reputation tackling challenging projects
 - Proven track record in bringing productive collaborations among private, public and state stakeholders together

Candidate Questions and Answers

Santa Fe Community College struggled with a financial crisis in the pandemic years that led to the loss of dozens of positions and several programs, in part due to declining enrollment. What can the college do to draw more students back and boost revenues?

I really believe Santa Fe Community College has a great role in the education of our youth and in building the innovation infrastructure in New Mexico. I will leverage my 26 years of experience in community service in Santa Fe and my perspective as a STEM professional to be an effective board member.

My skill set as a founder and CEO of STEM Santa Fe, was based on creating innovative programming and acquiring funding to support it. By being engaged in the community, participating in coalitions and conventions, and listening to what the local workforce needs are, as a board member, I will recommend new career pathways and create new collaborations and potential funding sources.

In order to draw more students to campus, SFCC needs to offer courses that interest youth and adults of all ages, from pre-school to seniors.

Examples:

The early childhood center at SFCC is a state of the art but there is a long waiting list. This program can be expanded on a sliding scale and also as a solution to the lack of quality childcare in the region which is affecting the economic development in Santa Fe.

The fitness center is also state of the art and there is capacity to offer more courses for people of all ages and needs as well as to offer school athletic teams to train there.

In terms of boosting revenue:

- *Building more Public-Private partnerships that is a win-win for both*
- *Applying for national and local grants leveraging the fact that SFCC is a Hispanic-serving institution and with innovative programming, as well as leveraging the diversity, equity and inclusion the college offers.*
- *Partner with the City of Santa Fe to solve the transportation issue to become more accessible for high school students from all over Santa Fe to get to campus and take classes.*
- *Creating memorandums of understanding (MOU) with all local high schools so that every high school student in Santa Fe has the opportunity to take at least one dual-credit course at SFCC.*

How do you envision the college's role in the community evolving to fill the changing educational needs of local residents and the local workforce?

In addition to my vision in the college as community hub for networking and building social capital for all as well as educational capital for students, I see the college being in the center of educating the public about the evolving educational needs and responding to it with programming such as:

- *More cutting-edge Teacher Training courses especially for reading, science and math instruction, using evidence-based techniques of proven impact. One urgent topic right now is: How to use AI in education instead of rejecting it.*
- *Coordinating paid apprenticeship and internship opportunities for SFCC students. Offering formal mentorship systems on-campus for students.*
- *Promoting certificate programs in environmental studies and in Sustainable technologies, as well as responding to local workforce needs such as the needs right now for healthcare and construction workers, and soon for space-related jobs.*
- *Promoting the social emotional well-being of the faculty and staff in addition to the students, with programs and counseling services available at all times as well as offering workshops on related topics.*
- *Be a hub for non-profits on-campus that provide services to youth and adults on campus to a better community engagement feel.*
- *Fostering innovation on campus buildings and infrastructure.*
- *Reinvigorating student clubs to bring students back to campus where they make friends and get a sense of volunteerism and belonging.*
- *Advancing services to 1st generation college students and all the unique support they need*
- *Instilling incentives for students, faculty and staff to volunteer in the community and represent SFCC.*

What would be your top priorities as a governing board member?

The primary functions of the Board are to determine financial and educational policies of the College. The Board shall provide for the management of the College and execution of these policies and to delegate the administration to the President and staff.

Both the fiduciary and educational responsibilities are very important to me. In addition, in collaboration with other board members and the college administration, I will introduce new educational policies to promote more vigorous offerings at the college.

The SFCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is one that I will continue to support and look forward to working on the next plan for 2025-2030 with a vision for diversity, equity and inclusion. It is crucial to incorporate flexibility in the plan to meet new challenges in higher education, evolving workforce demands, and emerging innovations. I see SFCC as a leader in education reform in the region for K-14 and will advocate for that vision as a member of the governing board.

I pledge to fulfill all the duties outlined in SFCC's Governing Board Authority, Roles and Responsibilities Policy. Based on my acumen as a scientist, a non-profit founder, and having worked in both the education and the business worlds, I can be most effective in the following

- A. Approve the mission, vision and long-term goals as defined in the College's strategic plan to promote student learning.*
- B. Oversee the fiscal integrity of the institution:*
- C. Oversee educational, research, and service programs and require evidence that the institution's academic priorities are being met.*
- D. In concert with the President, engage with the institution's constituencies on a regular basis.*
- E. Be informed about institutional issues and the challenges confronting higher education.*

My vision is three-folds and centered around empowering students with their education and adapting to changes in higher education:

STEAM Education

I believe in a multi-disciplinary approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) education, in offering a variety of Teacher Training in STEAM education and in developing more courses in Environmental Science and Sustainable Technologies.

STEM fields provide high pay and low unemployment rates but are associated with persistent personnel shortages, and underrepresentation by people of color. Lack of engagement with STEM is particularly acute for women and minorities. A more diverse team is more likely to outperform a more homogenous team leading to more innovative solutions.

Post-Secondary Opportunities

Offering more post-secondary opportunities which include dual credit classes for high school students and more certificate and apprenticeship programs, as we cultivate tomorrow's workforce. NM kids deserve an opportunity to dream big, to know that we need them to become analytical citizens, ready to solve problems that do not exist yet.

It is about learning how to learn. We need to teach them how to recognize and solve new problems, applying analytical and critical thinking. I will help build policies and collaborations so the college will offer courses and programs help students develop a growth mindset and the confidence to pursue higher education and a brighter future.

Promoting college courses to New Mexico young adults as a way to explore new career pathways and to assist them in exploring pathways that will work for them whether transferring credit to 4-year colleges or resuming their education after taking a break. Creating an educational environment that every young adult can thrive in. An essential element is providing these opportunities at an affordable cost.

Community Engagement

Welcoming community members to campus with more services, events and talks.

- *Promoting mentorship opportunities for students with trained volunteers from the community as well as structuring more formal peer-to-peer mentorship programs for students and community members as well.*
- *Security and food services on campus for extended hours and weekends*
- *Create an innovation center/STEAM center/Makerspace on campus where students and mentors can come together and create. The college already has many of the equipment and facilities in place such as the Planetarium and the Science on Sphere, but needs a sustainable model for operation with a mission that will attract the public to visit and experience.*
- *Invite non-profits and STEAM competitions to host programs on campus for youth of all ages.*
- *Send out surveys on a regular basis to the public asking about topics they would be interested in, whether related to parenting skills or to climate change.*
- *Organize events that bring families, multi-generations together, to campus to improve the quality of life for everyone in Santa Fe.*

What required duties of a board member would be most important to you?

The primary functions of the Board are to determine financial and educational policies of the College. The Board shall provide for the management of the College and execution of these policies and to delegate the administration to the President and staff.

Both the fiduciary and educational responsibilities are very important to me. In addition, in collaboration with other board members and the college administration, I will introduce new educational policies to promote a more vigorous offerings at the college.

What is your vision for any new programs and services?

My vision is three-folds: 1- Promoting STEAM Education which includes Teacher Training and offering more courses in Environmental Science and Sustainable Technologies. 2- Offering more post-secondary opportunities which include dual credit classes for High school students and more certificate and apprenticeship programs. 3- Welcoming community members to campus with more services, events and talks.

How can the Board help the college create new career pathways?

By being engaged in the community, participating in coalitions and conventions, and listening to what the local workforce needs are, as a board member, I will recommend new career pathways and create new collaborations and potential funding sources.

My skillset and experience as a founder and CEO of STEM Santa Fe, was based on creating innovative programming and finding funding for it.

What program changes, if any, would you support to enhance employability and job placement?

We need more teachers and teacher retention. I would like to see SFCC offering more Teacher Training courses especially for reading, science and math instruction, using evidence-based techniques of proven impact.

I would like to see that every high school student in Santa Fe take at least one course at SFCC as a dual credit or just to enhance their college pathway. We need more nurses, chefs, technicians, etc. These are all programs available at SFCC that high school students can explore.