

Sauk Valley Community College
January 28, 2019

Action Item 4.2

Topic: **Awarding Honorary Degree to Dr. Martha Kanter**

Mission: **Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.**

Presented By: **Dr. David Hellmich and Dr. Lori Cortez**

Presentation:

Dr. Martha J. Kanter is the Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign and Senior Fellow at the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy at New York University. The Campaign is dedicated to supporting the development and expansion of College Promise programs in communities and states throughout the country. Dr. Kanter joined the College Promise Campaign after having served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education.

In 1977, after serving as an alternative high school teacher in Massachusetts and New York, Dr. Kanter established the first program for students with learning disabilities at San Jose City College. She then served as a director, dean and subsequently vice chancellor for policy and research for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento. In 1990, she became vice president of instruction and student services at San Jose City College until she was named president of De Anza College in 1993, serving in this position for a decade until her appointment as chancellor.

In 1994, she opened the first Advanced Technology Center in California's community college system and promoted local and state policies to advance Foothill-De Anza's legacy of excellence and opportunity for California's expanding and increasingly diverse student population. She also led bond campaigns totaling more than a billion dollars to improve student access and opportunity to world-class campus facilities in Silicon Valley, including three state-of-the-art math, science and advanced technology centers. She is most proud of hiring and supporting an extraordinary faculty and staff to meet the demands of a changing demography, economy, and civic future of the communities she served.

In 2009, Dr. Martha J. Kanter was confirmed as the undersecretary of education, where she oversaw policies, programs, and activities related to postsecondary education, adult and career-technical education, and federal student aid. She is the first community college leader to serve in the undersecretary position. In her first two years as undersecretary, the successful implementation of the Direct Student Loan program resulted in a 50-percent increase in college enrollment, growing from six to nine million students today who are Pell Grant recipients. She and her team worked closely with postsecondary partners from across the nation to boost American innovation and competitiveness with an ambitious college completion agenda, modernization of career-technical education, and a new partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, which announced the first \$500 million of a \$2 billion federal investment to increase quality, graduation and employment opportunities for community college students.

Dr. Kanter holds a doctorate in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco. Her dissertation addressed demographic, institutional, and assessment factors affecting access to higher education for underrepresented students in California's community colleges.

In 2018, Dr. Kanter and the national College Promise Campaign began helping the College and the Sauk Valley College Foundation develop the Sauk Promise Program by sharing research, best practices, and networking opportunities.

Recommendation:

Awarded by the Sauk Valley Community College Board of Trustees, the honorary degree is a high form of recognition offered by the College to persons of exceptional distinction. The administration recommends the Board, per Board Policy 109.02, award an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree to Dr. Martha J. Kanter for her exceptional and lasting contributions as a notable life achievement in education generally and in community college education specifically.