

**Sauk Valley Community College
June 30, 2025**

Action Item 4.7

Topic: Faculty Appointment – Economics

College Health Metric: Academics – The College provides quality, contemporary, and relevant educational opportunities to the community.

Presented By: Drs. David Hellmich and Jon Mandrell

Presentation:

The administration has been in the process of hiring an Economics Faculty. The position was advertised online on Sauk Valley Community College's website, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *HigherEdJobs.com*, and other college hiring boards. The College received fifty-six applicants. Five candidates were invited for an on-campus interview. The committee was composed of Riley Gober, Jessica Wilkin, and Dr. Emily Zimmerman. Sasha Logan, Dean of Business, Career, and Technical Education, served as Chair.

Academic Background: Dimitra Freehill earned her Master's and Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has a minor in Mathematics.

Professional Background: Dimitra has been employed by Loop Capital Markets as an Econometrician in the Analytics Department. In 2006 and 2007, she worked with the University of Illinois at Chicago as an adjunct. Currently, she works as an adjunct for several colleges: Harper College, Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, College of DuPage, and North Central College.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Dimitra Freehill as an Assistant Professor II of Economics beginning August 8, 2025, at an annual base salary of \$57,513.49.

Dimitra Freehill

COVER LETTER FOR ECONOMICS FULL TIME TENURE TRACK FACULTY POSITION

Dear Members of the Screening Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Economics Full Time Tenure Track position at Sauk Valley Community College. I have been teaching Economics at several other colleges since the spring semester of 2022 and also have prior experience teaching as a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Aside from teaching, my professional experience includes having worked as an Econometrician in the Analytics Group at Loop Capital Markets, a full-service investment bank, brokerage and advisory firm, as well as having worked as a Product Manager in the Professional Services Division at Zacks Investment Research, an investment research firm, both based in Chicago. Earning my M.A. in Economics provided me with the knowledge to understand Economic theory, and my real world experience has given me perspective to bring practical applications of that theory to help my students understand how economics is used in practice and affects their daily lives.

A full-time teaching position would allow me to focus my efforts at one institution and provide very high quality lectures, discussions, and supplemental course materials for the students. I genuinely love teaching, take tremendous pride in my work, and find it to be a fulfilling and enjoyable career. In the spring of 2022 when I returned to work after taking time off to be a stay-at-home mom, the job came quite naturally to me as I've always had an innate ability to teach. Growing up as one of the eldest children in a large family, I had to take on a de facto parent role where one of my main contributions to my family of origin was helping my younger siblings with their homework. As a stay at home mom, I put an emphasis on learning while playing and both of my children were early readers and now with fluency continue to be avid readers, have strong math skills, and their love of learning continues to grow.

Throughout my teaching career, I have had great results connecting with students. I have had many students ask me to provide them with letters of recommendations, provided support to transferring students, have had students seek me out to take a second class with me, and even had several students who have written me notes at the end of the course saying how much they enjoyed my class and thanking me for such a great semester. My former students' success stories will always be part of my story. I had a student who took one of my classes last fall decide to trade majors into Economics and got accepted to her top choice school, UNC Chapel Hill, where she just enrolled at this fall. I helped mentor another student who also selected Economics + Computer Science after taking my course who is currently working as a tutor of Economics at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I have helped many more students by providing recommendations and mentorship. I also serve as the faculty advisor at Lewis University for the Delta Sigma Pi chapter (a coeducational professional business fraternity), founded and advise an Economics club at the College of DuPage, and volunteer for the College of Business Mentorship Program at Elmhurst University. One of my proudest individual accomplishments in my career is being nominated and selected by graduating seniors at Lewis University for the College of Business Faculty Excellence Award for the 2023-24 academic year. Working as an adjunct, I don't get to serve as many students as the full-time faculty, so this honor shows that the impact I made on the few students I have taught was very strong. The Office of Adjunct Faculty Support at the College of DuPage awarded me the Adjunct Faculty Spotlight Certificate for November 2023, recognizing my innovation to teaching and dedication to students.

To summarize my recent teaching experience, my journey first started at North Central College in the Spring of 2022 where I teach Econometrics, Macroeconomics, and Economics of Social Issues in addition to serving as a faculty advisor for an internship. I was then hired by the College of DuPage in the fall of 2022 as an adjunct faculty member where I teach Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Principles of Macroeconomics. Then I was hired at Lewis University in the Spring of 2023 where I teach International Economics, Intermediate Income Theory, and Basic Microeconomics. Next, I was hired at Joliet Junior College where I teach Principles of Microeconomics. Most recently, I started teaching at Harper College in the fall of 2024. Teaching several courses at multiple colleges over the past few semesters has proven that I have the capacity to teach and can manage the workload required for the role. Most courses I have taught have been in a traditional face to face classroom setting, but I also have taught hybrid and online courses as well. Prior to my recent teaching experience, at UIC I worked as a graduate student instructor and as a teaching assistant. I taught Intermediate Microeconomics, and also was a teaching assistant for a graduate level Mathematics for Economics course and an introductory Principles of Economics course for

which I held mandatory weekly discussion sessions as well. After graduating, I was able to use skills necessary for teaching while working as product support at Zacks Investment Research through training sessions and product demonstrations. Then I was able to use more of my advanced economic knowledge as an Econometrician at Loop Capital Markets where I provided in depth analysis of macroeconomic trends used in the firm's publications, forecasted macroeconomic indicators, and provided other ad-hoc analysis.

Since I have gotten back into teaching, I have acquired so much more experience in the classroom and have proactively sought out additional training, which has helped prepare me for a full-time position here at the college. I am always ready to learn and continue to develop more skills as higher education continues to evolve. At College of DuPage, I took advantage of the extensive training opportunities they offer and have successfully completed the Learner Centered Teaching, 4 Connections, and Diversity, Social Justice, and Inclusion courses. I had also received rigorous training to prepare myself as an instructor at Joliet Junior College as well as completed the Overview of Online Instruction course at the University of Illinois Springfield, and received an Online Teaching Certification from Lewis University as part of their mandatory training program as well. While the training I have received from these sources has been worthwhile, the opportunity to teach at these institutions has given me invaluable experience that has helped prepare me for this role. At Harper College I am in the process of registering for training courses as well to continue learning and support the mission of the college.

My experience teaching at a variety of institutions with some being public and some being private, as well as teaching at 2-year and 4-year colleges, has given me a lot of insight into what students need from their instructors. I give great importance to my role as an instructor to foster student learning. My goal is to help students understand the content of the course through engaging lectures and discussions along with integrating assessment throughout the learning process and providing valuable feedback to students along the way. I've found that with distance learning especially, providing meaningful feedback is very helpful in keeping the students engaged. One of my biggest strengths as an instructor has been explaining economic theory to students in a way that helps them understand the concepts at a more intuitive level. In addition to teaching Economics formally at the collegiate level, having some field experience has helped enrich my knowledge of the subject, and I feel that I would be a great addition to your team.

Thank you so much for considering me for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dimitra Freehill

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ADJUNCT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harper College August 2024-Present

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Joliet Junior College March 2023-Present

Microeconomics

Lewis University January 2023-Present

International Economics, Intermediate Income Theory, Microeconomics

College of DuPage August 2022-Present

Principles of Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

North Central College January 2022-Present

Econometrics, Macroeconomics, Economics of Social Issues

University of Illinois at Chicago January 2006-May 2007

Mathematical Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Principles of Economics

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Chapter Advisor for Delta Sigma Pi at Lewis University

Economics Club Advisor at College of DuPage

School of Business Mentor at Elmhurst University

ACCOLADES

Recipient of College of Business 23-24 Faculty Excellence Award at Lewis University

Adjunct Faculty Spotlight November 2023 at College of DuPage

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Econometrician, Analytics Department

Loop Capital Markets July 2013-September 2015

- Wrote an in-depth quarterly economic analysis and predicted economic trends.
- Produced a monthly quantitative bank analysis report looking at expected default frequencies and macro trends.
- Participated in monthly strategy reports, provided bullet points qualifying forecast trends.
- Wrote and distributed a weekly report analyzing state and regional trends in weekly jobless claim filings.
- Ran a U.S. level macroeconomic economic indicator and interest rate forecasting model.
- Generated a monthly corporate spread forecast and a weekly bond volume forecast.
- Performed ad-hoc forecasts for one-time studies used in various publications of the firm.

Product Manager, Professional Services Department

Zacks Investment Research September 2007-July 2013

- Contributed to database production and operations to maintain and quality control databases.
- Provided product and client support: report building, product training, and support
- Created an economic calendar track important economic releases and provided commentary.

EDUATION

University of Illinois at Chicago

Master's of Arts Degree in Economics, May 2007; GPA 3.7

Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Economics, Minor: Mathematics July 2005; GPA: 3.6