



Citrus Community College District
1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741

eMEMO

November 15, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to share an update with you regarding the search process for the position of Executive Director of Human Resources.

Following an extensive search, I am pleased to announce that Simone Brown Thunder has accepted the invitation to serve as our next Executive Director of Human Resources. I would like to thank the members of the search committee for their time and effort throughout this process. The Board of Trustees approved Simone's appointment during their meeting held yesterday afternoon. Simone's first day on campus will be Friday, December 1, 2023, which will provide her with the opportunity to spend some time with our current Director, Dr. Robert Sammis, prior to his retirement, in support of a smooth transition.

Simone is excited to join our Citrus College family and brings significant experience from her past service in human resources departments at multiple organizations in higher education. Most recently, she has been providing leadership as the District Director of Human Resources Operations at the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD), where she has served since 2018. While at NOCCCD, she managed numerous human resources operations for NOCCCD, including talent acquisition, compensation/classification, performance management, employee services/relations, negotiations, HRIS, position management, technology projects, and reclassification processes.

Prior to her work at NOCCCD, Simone and her family lived in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, where she performed human resources-related work at the University of Minnesota. As she provided leadership in her role with a focus on talent acquisition and continuous improvement, she collaborated with colleges and individual departments to improve the hiring process, while creating innovative strategies to increase the diversity of faculty and staff.

Throughout her time at the University of Minnesota, she provided strategic leadership to the talent acquisition recruitment team, as well as University stakeholders (i.e., HR professionals, senior academic leaders, deans) related to hiring, interviewing, workforce planning, succession planning, HR trends, employee relations, and compensation.

Simone is proud to be a member of the Karuk tribe – one of the largest Native American tribes in California. Originally from Eureka, California, she has worked with the Indian Health Service, a federal agency that supports tribes and health clinics, in Sacramento.

Simone earned her Master of Education degree at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She has continued to expand her education and invest in her professional growth by attending professional learning opportunities related to human resources, community colleges, and higher education.

Please join me in welcoming Simone Brown Thunder to our campus community!

Sincerely,

Greg Schulz, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President