



## Candidate for President Scottsdale Community College

**Blaine Nisson, Ed. D.**



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Dr. Blaine Nisson has served as President of Umpqua Community College (UCC) since the fall of 2004 and has over 25 years of community college administrative experience. He has a Doctorate of Education in Community College Leadership from Oregon State University, a Masters in Education and Bachelors in Marketing from Idaho State University. He has Washington and Oregon community college experience, including large urban institutions, and he has served in a variety of leadership roles at state, regional and national levels. In 2003-04 he served as the President of the National Association of Community Colleges, an affiliate council of the America Association of Community Colleges.

Prior to becoming UCC President, he came from Clark College (29,000 student headcount) where he served as Vice President of Student Development and twice as Acting President. At Clark he developed Co-Admission agreements with Universities and helped plan new construction and renovation of buildings for the campus as well as the design of the Clark Center at Washington State University, Vancouver. He has also served as the Dean of Student Development at Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus, Dean of Students at Centralia College (WA), and held several administrative positions at Linn-Benton Community College (OR) and Idaho State University.

Under Dr. Nisson's leadership at UCC, the campus has expanded its comprehensive mission. Transfer education has been strengthened by signing Co-Admission/Articulation agreements with Oregon State University, Oregon Health Sciences University, Eastern Oregon University and Northwest Christian College. Agreements such as these not only help ease the transfer function for students but also have brought baccalaureate and master level programs to Douglas County, a large, rural area of the state. Since he assumed the UCC helm, eight new professional technical programs have been developed and implemented with three additional programs slated for 2008-09. Adult Education offerings have been strengthened and an online high school credit recovery program has been implemented. The college is also working to address the needs of the growing number of retirees with the possibility of establishing a "Seniors College."

He places a high priority on remaining connected to the communities served by the college, building partnerships, helping to lead foundation efforts and advocating for the needs of the college. Examples of work in this area include his current efforts to create a new Viticulture and Enology Program (The Southern Oregon Wine Institute) with support from the local community and wine industry (a potential of 5,000 wine-cluster jobs), the expansion of instructional facilities through a partnership with the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians, successful legislative efforts to secure increased funding for Oregon's community colleges, and community support for a 40% expansion of the Nursing Program. Additionally, under his leadership the college has made dramatic improvement in campus technology, including the installation of an integrated management information software system (Banner) and classroom management software which has supported a significant expansion of distance education courses. He brings a proven commitment to meeting the needs of students and community with his experience in educational policy and program implementation, administration, and management.

*Information provided as submitted by candidate.  
February 2008*