

**HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CANDIDATE: JOSHUA CROCKETT**

**BACKGROUND**

I was raised by a proud working-class family who had to sacrifice to put me through college; my education began at Heartland Community College as a part-time student while balancing an almost full-time food service job. What I adore most about Heartland is how the College gave me the space to find myself, my skills, and my passions—setting me up for a lifetime of success—which is precisely what I know Heartland has the potential to do for us all.

Whether serving as Heartland’s Student Trustee or working to bring change to our incredible community, I have long felt that a leader ought to have a heart to see people succeed, which means pouring into others and bringing people in from the margins.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I’m running for Heartland’s Board of Trustees because community colleges change lives. I know this because Heartland changed mine, and right now what has the potential to change the lives of so many in our community is an affordable and quality education. Completing a degree, certificate, or vocational and job training programs—those are the credentials, skills, and talents that folks need to get a good paying job.

Right now, that’s exactly what central Illinois needs the most—a path to economic security and mobility. We need to fight off this pandemic and then we may begin rebuilding our local and national economies in a way that lifts people up, and one of the many tools that our community and country has are community colleges.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

I believe we can create an inclusive and equitable campus that is accessible to all people while utilizing Heartland’s unique position to create an innovative educational experience focused on expanded vocational and job training programs. This can all happen while ensuring we spend your taxpayer dollars wisely.

Collectively and individually, our community is uniquely positioned to move forward, creating the kind of place we all hope to call home. I have long felt that a leader ought to have a heart to see people succeed which means embracing the challenges before us and clinging to a vision of who we know we can be.



## **HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CANDIDATE: JIM DREW**

### **BACKGROUND**

I am a long-time Logan County resident, originally from the Godfrey/Alton area. I graduated from Western Illinois University in 1977 with a degree in Agricultural Business and moved to Lincoln in 1978 where I have been employed by the Logan County Farm Bureau since that time. I have had the opportunity to serve on various boards including the Lincoln Logan Economic Development Partnership, the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation, the YMCA, and the Lincoln Zoning Board of Appeals. A member of Lincoln Christian Church, my wife Lisa and I live in Lincoln where we own and operate Sorrento's Pizzeria. In November 2018 and October 2020, I was appointed by the Board to complete terms that were vacated early.

### **WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I want to serve as a trustee on the Heartland CC board as a way to give back to my community. After living and working in Lincoln for over 40 years, it would be my pleasure to represent the town and the Logan County area. It would also be an honor to assist Heartland College in maintaining their core values and planning for the future by using my past experience and knowledge. My vision for the office is to remember that the most important thing that a trustee of Heartland Community College can do is to ensure that the education that they receive and the curriculum that is provided meet the needs of a variety of students.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The Covid pandemic is the pressing issue today, not only as a health epidemic in itself, but also in the classroom environment. As everyone knows, the Covid pandemic has changed not only our K-12 classrooms, but higher education learning opportunities as well. Reaching out to resources to assist us in these times is essential to our work in helping to provide successful opportunities for our students.

**HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CANDIDATE: CATRINA PARKER**

**BACKGROUND**

I have lived in Bloomington-Normal for almost 10 years with my husband and two daughters. I received my Associates degree from Heartland Community College. I have a B.S. in Human Development and a M.S. in Public Service Management. During my time at ISU, I served as President of the ISU Council on Family Relations. In my spare time I volunteer at my church, and with the Evans Jr High Promise Council. Last year I started a monthly podcast where I discuss quirky pop culture and social science. I also serve as the Budget and Personnel Committee Chair on the Board of Trustees at the Bloomington Public Library.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I immensely enjoyed my experience at Heartland as a student, tour guide, and student ambassador. Serving on the board would give me the opportunity to give back to the institution that gave me so much. My vision for Heartland is to ensure that it remains a quality, affordable institution for our diverse community, and positions itself to stay abreast of new technologies and opportunities, to provide our students with the best experience. I also want to ensure that Heartland is great place of employment that looks out for its employees, to ensure that we recruit and retain a high caliber of faculty and staff.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

Obviously the global COVID pandemic is probably the most pressing issue facing our society right now. Helping our students and faculty navigate this pandemic is at the forefront of what public servants are facing. I would work closely with federal, state, and local officials to find the best path forward.

Considering that the graduated income tax referendum failed to pass in the last state election, many institutions, including HCC, will likely be facing budget reductions and will have to make difficult decisions regarding potential program cuts or voting to raise tuition costs. While I cannot speculate on the details of these possible changes, I am committed to ensuring that community college remains affordable and accessible for everyone.

## **HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **CANDIDATE: CINDY PULLEY**

#### **BACKGROUND**

I am a former secondary mathematics teacher and faculty member of Heartland Community College. Currently, I am a faculty member at Illinois State University and teach part time for Illinois Wesleyan University. I tutor secondary students in the area. My love of learning fuels my desire to continue trying new instructional approaches, roles in education, and serving our community.

#### **WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

I am committed to the value of education and believe in the worth of community service. I will seek to learn and understand all interests in the community and help buffer the college from single interest. I am willing to listen to students, faculty, administration and most of all the community members that Heartland serves to work toward compromises that will benefit everyone.

I hope to represent community interests by utilizing my ties to the community and to Heartland Community College. I will support and develop policies consistent with Heartland's mission for quality programs and services while maintaining legal and ethical parameters in college operations. I will monitor Heartland's performance to ensure they are meeting the needs of the community and anticipating future trends.

#### **WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

Voters are looking for training and services to develop successful employees who meet specific needs; training, associate degrees, and certificates for students to enter and succeed in the workplace.

Voters are concerned with the effects of the pandemic on Heartland resulting in lower enrollment, credit hours, community education resulting in a loss of revenue.

Promoting a community of diversity, equity and inclusion for all is necessary to establish a safe environment for the students at Heartland Community College.

**HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CANDIDATE: BECKY ROPP**

**BACKGROUND**

Twenty-five years ago I married into a 7th generation dairy farm in North Normal, just 4 miles north of the Heartland Community College Normal Campus. My family also owns and runs Ropp Jersey Cheese, a business that serves artisanal cheeses to central Illinois communities. Personally, I work at GROWMARK, a regional agricultural cooperative based in Bloomington. I have worked for GROWMARK for just over 26 years and I am currently their director of communications. I believe very strongly in the importance and value of volunteering for the community and one of those ways I have volunteered for the past 7 years is as a Board Trustee member and Secretary on the Heartland Community College Board of Trustees.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

My maternal grandmother, born in 1907, worked to receive her master's degree. I felt the responsibility to carry on that tradition and have my master's degree in Business from Illinois State University. Education is the cornerstone of any society and that is certainly true in the Heartland Community College district! Our daughter is a freshman at HCC in the Agricultural program, and I couldn't be more proud to have a Heartland Hawk in our family. My vision for the HCC Board is to be proactively working with community leaders towards the needs of our district in providing work readiness training and foundational education. If we work to educate our citizens, they will improve their personal situations and in turn be better prepared to serve their local communities.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all personally and professionally. I believe, this will be a key issue for voters. Heartland Community College has a Strategic Enrollment initiative to attract and assist students of our district through the power of education. Aspects of the plan include underserved communities, workforce initiatives for certifications, and assisting students struggling to become first generation college graduates. I have been highly supportive of these initiatives and particularly interested in our facilities master plan. With the opportunities Heartland faculty have provided students through online learning, I think Heartland Community College is primed to serve the district and help our community members rise out the crisis created by the pandemic to be better positioned for their future.

**HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CANDIDATE: JODIE SLOTHOWER**

**BACKGROUND**

I can bring to HCC's board experience encouraging people from many perspectives to work together for positive change and 20+ years working in higher education. I served as an elected Normal Library Board member for 6 years. My leadership experience includes president of a professional communication organization and an environmental group. Recently, I have advocated for social justice, equality, civil rights, and the environment. As HCC designed its campus, I was a tenured professor of multimedia with supervision responsibilities. Previously I was a professor at Kansas State University and an instructor at Illinois State University. I took classes through HCC and College of DuPage. My family has taken classes and received degrees from community colleges so I understand how that education can propel students to continuing success. I run a small digital marketing company and know HCC can assist businesses of all sizes. <http://www.jodieforhcc.com>.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AND WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE OFFICE?**

HCC has developed into an excellent education resource. It's important to keep courses affordable and accessible for students, from elementary students at the Challenger Learning Center, traditional students wanting an associate's degree to transfer, people looking to improve job opportunities, and Community Education students gaining new skills. HCC should be a safe, supportive environment for a diversity of perspectives. First-class technology is vital to meet tomorrow's challenges. HCC should continue to connect with businesses to be an economic growth engine. Faculty need to be supported and recognized. HCC needs flexibility to adapt to changes in learning environments whether in person or online and expectations from students and businesses. When faculty, staff and students are positively encouraged and with innovative adaptability, HCC can continue to succeed.

**DO YOU THINK ARE THE PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE VOTERS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?**

Like community colleges throughout U.S., HCC faces enrollment issues. This is unfortunate because HCC offers many educational opportunities to assist people's employment options through the pandemic. HCC needs to communicate effectively courses for traditional and non-traditional students. HCC must be sure a supportive, positive place for a diversity of opinions. HCC faces budget challenges that need to be addressed through several channels, not just taxes or increasing tuition. HCC should continue to participate in local government's efforts to improve the economy. HCC should address needs of local students and our community first. HCC faculty deserve to

be respected part of the educational team. HCC should innovate and grow and consider the many people it supports and serves.

**HEARTLAND C C – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CANDIDATE: CECILIA LONG**

Candidate did not respond to questionnaire.