



Notice of Commissioner Election
Ballot of Nominees
May 5, 2023

In compliance with Section 4.5.3. Procedures for Election by Members of the ABHES *Bylaws*, the Commissioner Nominating Committee (CNC) reviewed all candidate nominations received following the February 17, 2023, Notice of Appointments and Elections. In order to assure that the Commission is comprised of well-qualified individuals to effectively carry out the mission of ABHES and serve in a fiduciary capacity, the CNC considered the experience and qualifications of each candidate, their interview, and background screening.

The CNC is pleased to announce the following candidates for the ABHES Commissioner election. Please take time to review each candidate's bio prior to casting your vote. **The election will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on Friday, May 19, 2023.** See the Voting Instructions contained within this document for important details.

ACADEMIC IN A HEALTHCARE RELATED AREA

Requires at least five years of academic experience on site at a member institution or program, including active participation in an academic capacity in the day-to-day operations of a member institution or program during the three years immediately preceding election (those three years may count toward the five-year experience requirement).

One Seat Available

Candidates:

- *Jeremy Burciaga*
- *Kathaleen Cole*
- *Lee Foley*
- *Dr. Robin Nelhuebel*

Jeremy Burciaga
Vice President
Southwest University at El Paso

Jeremy Burciaga currently serves as Vice President of Southwest University at El Paso. As a leader in higher education for over 15 years, Mr. Burciaga has vast experience in innovation and modernization within education. He was at the forefront of the implementation of iPad usage as an eReader and is responsible for the successful development of over 20 educational programs ranging from certificate-level to master's level credentials. Mr. Burciaga has exponentially increased the quality of educational standards at the university by overseeing numerous accreditation evaluations for agencies such as the Texas Board of Nursing, and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiographic Technology.

Mr. Burciaga has established himself as an innovator in the education field through his programmatic developments and continues to implement various professions in the workforce of the West Texas region.

Education

Master of Public Administration, University of Texas at El Paso

Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso

Kathaleen Cole

Campus President

Education Affiliates

Kathaleen Cole began working in higher education in 1996 as a Massage Therapy Instructor and Director of Education. She became passionate about compliance, which motivated her to become an evaluator and serve on the preliminary review committee. Ms. Cole earned a Bachelor of Science in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of West Florida while working full-time. She also serves as Chair for her local workforce board. As commissioner, she hopes to bring her perspective as a consumer, school administrator, instructor, and evaluator to facilitate a better understanding and appreciation for accreditation standards.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Instructional Design and Technology, University of West Florida

Lee Foley

Vice President, Accreditation/Compliance and Education

Beckfield College

Lee Foley is a native of Mississippi where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from the University of Southern Mississippi and his Master of Business Administration from William Carey University. He has been living in Cincinnati, Ohio for almost thirteen years, where he moved to accept a career in higher education as a Program Director of Business and Technology programs. Mr. Foley focused his early career efforts on student persistence, faculty diversity, and teaching. He later accepted a career with Beckfield College as an Academic Dean working closely with other academic leaders to develop and maintain quality programs that helped hundreds of students in the community gain life-changing careers. During his tenure at Beckfield College, Mr. Foley's collaboration and leadership among his peers led to many noteworthy accreditation and regulatory team visits. He was later promoted to Vice President of Accreditation and Education in which he has been currently serving for over seven years.

Education

Master of Business Administration, William Carey University

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Robin Nelhuebel
Executive Director
Riverside College of Health Sciences

Dr. Nelhuebel is a Registered Nurse and Radiologic Technologist with 32+ years of clinical, instructional, and administrative experience. As the Executive Director of Riverside College of Health Careers in Virginia, she provides academic, organizational, and compliance oversight of Cardiovascular Technology, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assisting, Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology programs. Dr. Nelhuebel is passionate about health careers education and the development of a strong, competent healthcare workforce. She holds a PhD in Education Leadership in Higher Ed. and master's degrees in both Education and Nursing.

Education

Doctor of Education, Leadership for Higher Education Specialization, Capella University
Master of Science in Nursing, Leadership, Regent University
Master of Education, Adult Education, Troy University
Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree, Management & Education, Medical University of South Carolina
Diploma in Professional Nursing, Riverside School of Professional Nursing
Certificate in Radiologic Technology, Norfolk General School of Radiologic Technology

COMMISSIONER-AT-LARGE

One Seat Available

Candidates:

- Serjik Kesachekian
- Timothy Lee
- Dr. Joanitt Montano
- Mikhail Shneyder

Serjik Kesachekian
Chief Compliance Officer
Success Education Colleges

Mr. Kesachekian currently serves as a Chief Compliance Officer for Success Education Colleges and is primarily responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance and the methodical and disciplined growth of the organization. He has more than two decades of experience in various senior leadership roles, including Campus Director, Regional and Corporate Director of Financial Aid and Planning, and Director of Education and Compliance. He has developed internal strategies to ensure compliance and has played an integral role in new program launches, campus development, and has been a key member of the team charged with supporting other institutions faced with teach-outs and campus closures. He has been involved in ABHES evaluation visits, served on Preliminary Review Committee (PRC), and has familiarity with working with other national and programmatic accreditors.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Biology, California State University Los Angeles

Timothy Lee
Chief Operating Officer
American Career College

Mr. Lee is currently the Co-President for West Coast University. He has been in higher education for over 24 years with the majority of his experience working in the area of admissions. Prior to West Coast University, he served as Chief Operating Officer for American Career College for 7 years and held executive positions and Career Education Corporation and Corinthian Colleges. He began his career in education as a baseball coach and special education teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from California State University San Bernardino and a Master of Business Administration from the University of LaVerne.

[Education](#)

Master of Public Administration, University of LaVerne
Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, California State University San Bernardino

Dr. Joanitt Montano
Provost/Chief Academic Officer
The College of Health Care Professions

A native of Puerto Rico, Dr. Montano earned a B.S. in Biology from Boston College and an M.D. from the Ponce School of Medicine. She is the Chief Academic Officer for The College of Health Care Professionals. Dr. Montano has served in adult education for over a decade and oversees the academic department for nine ground campuses and an online branch. She has considerable administrative experience in all things dealing with adult education including assessments, accreditation, and community outreach and engagement. Joanitt has a passion for creating academically flexible pathways and options for adult learners. She has been featured in Michael Palmer's podcast, Trending in Education, discussing blended learning models, stackable credentials and employer partnerships that create various pathways for adult learners to access careers in healthcare. Additionally, Dr. Montano has been published in Higher Ed Dive for her opinion piece arguing that higher education institutions must meet learners, especially adults, where they are. She firmly believes that "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela. In her spare time, she likes to read, travel, photography and she is a pet parent to her pup Sugarboy.

[Education](#)

Doctorate in Medicine, Ponce School of Medicine
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Boston College

Mikhail Shneyder
Chief Executive Officer
Nightingale Education Group

Mikhail Schneider is the founder and CEO of Nightingale Education Group. From 2012 until 2023, Shneyder served as the first President of Nightingale College, a higher learning institution dedicated to closing education equity gaps and creating geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic access to the nursing profession. An RN for over 25 years, Shneyder has a wealth of leadership experience in higher education and healthcare delivery services. He is a published author, conference speaker, and lecturer, specializing in strategic planning, organization development, forecasting, and management.

Education

Master of Business Administration, University of California, Berkeley
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Phoenix

OWNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

Requires current status as: (i) a sole or majority owner; corporate officer, chief executive officer or president of a member institution holding institutional accreditation, (ii) a member of the board of directors, a trustee, or an officer of a member institution or sponsoring institution holding programmatic accreditation owned or operated by a nonprofit entity; (iii) a person who owns a sufficient interest in a member institution or sponsoring institution holding programmatic accreditation that functions as a partnership or privately held corporation; OR (iv) an officer of a publicly held corporation that owns a member institution holding institutional accreditation.

One Seat Available

Candidate (unopposed):

- *Stephen Schwartz*

Stephen Schwartz
Co-CEO and CFO
American Institute

Stephen Schwartz is the Co- CEO and CFO of American Institute, with five campuses serving New Jersey and Connecticut. He started in proprietary education in 1992. During his 30 years of service, he has worked across all functions within the organization of both public and private companies. Prior to this experience, he held positions on Wall Street as an Associate at an investment bank. Mr. Schwartz believes that with a focus on quality programs, faculty, and staff, a school can deliver for all stakeholders including students, communities, employers, investors, and taxpayers.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Accounting, University of Florida

Voting Instructions

Voting will be conducted on the Simply Voting platform: <https://abheselect.simplyvoting.com>.

On **Friday, May 19, 2023**, the primary contact for each ABHES-accredited member institution/program will receive an email with an elector ID and password from vote@simplyvoting.com (on behalf of ABHES/elections@abhes.org). To cast your vote, you must click the direct link within the email received or log in directly via abheselect.simplyvoting.com using your elector ID and password. Additional instructions can be found under "How It Works" at abheselect.simplyvoting.com.

Voting will open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on Friday, May 19, 2023. Once a ballot has been cast, it cannot be changed.

Eligibility to Vote

In accordance with Section 4.5.2., Eligibility to Vote, of the ABHES Bylaws, only institutions and programs accredited by ABHES are eligible to vote for elected Commissioners. The number of votes that may be cast is as follows:

- a. **Accredited Institutions:** Each main campus or non-main campus receives two (2) votes.
- b. **Accredited Programs** (programmatically accredited medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, and surgical technology): Each address identified on record as having one or more accredited programs counts as one (1) vote.

Upon conclusion of the voting period, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes within each category will fill the specific Commission seat. **Election results will be announced on Monday, May 22, 2023.**

Please contact elections@abhes.org or (301) 291-7550 with any questions regarding the electronic voting process.