



TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Two Vice Presidents Bring Expertise and Energy To Tohono O'odham Community College

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Sells, AZ—Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC), located in Sells, Arizona, on the Tohono O'odham Nation, has brought on board two new vice presidents. Ms. Jane Latané started last month as TOCC's Vice President of Institutional Research and Development. Dr. Robert Ledman joined the College in April 2009 as Vice President of Administrative Services and Finance. About the two new vice presidents, Ms. Olivia Vanegas-Funcheon, President of Tohono O'odham Community College, said, *"We are delighted to welcome Ms. Latané and Dr. Ledman to the College's leadership. They have tremendous experience for their positions, and both of them have displayed the commitment to quality and to results that the College seeks. With Ms. Latané and Dr. Ledman completing our leadership team, the College has the expertise and energy to move forward in many exciting directions."*

Jane Latané comes to TOCC after consulting and working for the Tohono O'odham Nation for thirteen years in program development, grant proposal writing, and directing projects. Recently, she served as Program Development Manager for the Nation's Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Latané wrote proposals and directed projects related to vocational rehabilitation, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention and recovery, and child welfare services. She said her goal for this work was to develop resources to improve the quality of life on the Tohono O'odham Nation, especially in the areas of employment of people with disabilities and health. Over the years, she served as lead writer on grants bringing \$10.4 million in services to the Nation.

About her move to the College, Ms. Latané said, *"Educating young people close to home is important, especially in an environment that is familiar to them culturally. I felt it would be an honor to support these students."* She went on to explain that her focus for Institutional Research and Development will be researching employment needs on the Tohono O'odham Nation and helping the College develop funding for academic programs that train and educate

individuals for the jobs of the future. For the College's many financial needs, she will provide the research and background planning for grant proposals and other development efforts.

Ms. Latané says that her love of Arizona began many years ago when she lived in Morenci, where her father was a metallurgist for Phelps Dodge. However, she mostly grew up in New York City and the surrounding area. She earned a bachelor's degree from Barnard College and later an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. She worked in labor relations in state and local government in Ohio and owned an independent bookstore. In 1994, Jane moved to Tucson, where she still lives. She enjoys walking and as a former bookstore owner, she is an avid reader. Asked about her recent reading, Jane says she highly recommends *The Sweet Smell of Home*, the autobiography and retrospective of the artwork of the late Tohono O'odham artist Leonard Chana.

Robert Ledman is TOCC's Vice President of Administrative Services and Finance at Tohono O'odham Community College. Prior to joining the College, Dr. Ledman was an associate professor of management at Georgia Southwestern State University. He has over sixteen years of experience in higher education, all as a business and management professor, during which time he taught strategic planning, organizational behavior, and international business. Dr. Ledman has an MBA from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Ledman also has substantial administrative experience, including time as a Product Manager for the Red Cross, when he managed the inventory and distribution of the blood supply in the Washington, D.C. area.

Since coming to TOCC in April, Dr. Ledman has focused on understanding and streamlining the financial and administrative services of the College. He chairs the TOCC Strategic Planning Committee and is working with staff throughout the College to improve budgeting processes. Dr. Ledman is impressed by the thought that went into the College's core values, saying that *"Management within the core values framework fits well with who I am. I believe in respect and working together, and I care for the well-being of those with whom I work."*

The core values to which Dr. Ledman referred are four concepts from Tohono O'odham culture and way of life, or *Himdag*, which imbue the work of everyone at TOCC. The College's Himdag Committee helped the campus community explore and define these core values over the past two years. The College refers to the core values as **T-So:son – Our Core**. The four values are *T-Wohocudadag–Our Beliefs*, *T-Apedag–Our Well-Being*, *T-Pi:k Elida–Our Deepest Respect*, and *I-We:mta–Working Together*. The values concern living in balance with nature, conducting oneself and interacting with others in healthy ways, respecting all people, and working with each other.

The Tohono O'odham Nation chartered and established Tohono O'odham Community College in 1998 to increase access to higher education for its members and to promote economic self-sufficiency. The Tohono O'odham Nation, located west of Tucson and east of Ajo, has around 28,800 members and a land base of 2.8 million acres (4,460 square miles, about the size of Connecticut). The Nation's website is www.tonation-nsn.gov. TOCC offers classes at sites across the Tohono O'odham Nation, in Tucson, and online. To learn more, please visit the College's website at www.tocc.cc.az.us.

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