

## JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2015 CANDIDATE PROFILE

**Name:** Larry Fotovich

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**Number of years you have resided in Johnson County:** 44

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**Campaign Committee Name:** NA

**Campaign Chair(s):**NA                      **Phone:** NA

**Campaign Treasurer:** NA                      **Phone:** NA

**Committee Mailing Address:** NA

**Campaign Email:** larry@suburbian.com

*Note: Please limit each response to 100 words or less.*

**1. Why are you uniquely qualified to serve on the JCCC Board of Trustees and why are you seeking this office at this time?**

I am a past, present and future user of JCCC's services. I attended the college from 1981 to 1983, two of my children are currently taking College Now courses, and our high school senior plans to attend full time in the fall.

**2. If elected, what would be your top three agenda items as a trustee that you would work towards for the betterment of the College and the education it provides?**

With expected decreases in state financial aid and declining tuition rates from competing online start-up colleges with lower overhead, my number one priority would be to look for more efficient ways to provide the same or better service on lower revenue.

My second priority would be to change the college's reputation as a school of last resort--one that appeals to those who can't afford a 4-year university or those who pursue their degree after many years of full-time, non-professional work. The college should have so many resident students that none of our property taxes go to support the tuition of non-resident students.

My third priority would be to ensure that the college continues to be an institution of higher learning--not a substitute for traditionally employer-paid training.

**3. With respect to paying for the cost of educating the College's students, where do you stand regarding tuition increases vs. mill levy increases and what is the appropriate way to balance those?**

The goal should be to increase the number of residents with college degrees or at least two years of college education while filling the buildings to capacity and ensuring that other capital resources are at full utilization. Whatever combination of property tax subsidies and tuition rates

achieves that goal is the one I'd favor. The social and financial return on investment in a college education is ultimately always greater than the alternative.

**4. What role could Johnson County Community College play with regard to workforce readiness?**

I would have to know more about what defines "workforce readiness" to provide a specific opinion, but in general, the college's goal shouldn't be to replace what used to be called "on-the-job training" at taxpayer expense. I understand and support the college's role in preparing students for professional careers--even those that don't require a four-year degree, but workforce readiness to me implies training for a specific job, not a profession.

**5. What do you see as the role of JCCC with respect to supporting / partnering with our Universities?**

JCCC should work with as many universities as possible to ensure its classes are approved as prerequisites for an even broader variety of four-year degrees.

**6. What is your vision for the college ten years from now?**

In ten years, JCCC will be the yardstick by which every other community college in the country is measured. The classes will be recognized by even Ivy League schools as prerequisites for their four-year degrees. The number of students enrolled will be twice the current enrollment, but because of advances in online instruction, the size of the campus will be almost the same and so will tuition costs. Due to the increase in the volume of students taught and the relatively fixed costs of the existing campus, salaries for professors will increase along with their public stature. The term "adjunct professor" will be the exception, not the norm as a professor's workload requires full-time employment with full benefits.