

Judy Oates

From: Job Link Sonoma <admin@joblinksonoma.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Judy Oates; SonomaWIB
Subject: New WIB Application for Review

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Name

Dr. Sarah Ellison

Email

ellisons@sonoma.edu

Title

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

Agency

Sonoma State University

Preferred Seat Type

Community College/Higher Education

Address

1801 East Cotati Ave
Rohnert Park, California 94928
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Phone Number

~~(707) 285-6839~~

Briefly describe your interest in the Workforce Investment Board and tell us a little about yourself. What strengths will you bring to our board?

I am deeply committed to fostering equitable access to education, training, and career opportunities, which aligns with the mission of the Workforce Investment Board. As the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Sonoma State University, I oversee a broad portfolio that includes pre-collegiate programs, career services, equity and access programs, and student success initiatives. My role has allowed me to work closely with students, faculty, and community stakeholders to develop pathways that empower individuals to achieve their educational and career goals.

One of my key strengths is my ability to build collaborative partnerships between higher education institutions, community organizations, and local industries. These connections are critical to aligning workforce development efforts with the needs of our community and ensuring sustainable economic growth in Sonoma County. Additionally, I bring experience in strategic planning, program development, and data-informed decision-making, which are essential for driving impactful initiatives.

My passion for equity, inclusion, and access has guided my career, and I look forward to bringing this perspective to the Workforce Development Board. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my expertise and work alongside a dedicated group of leaders to strengthen workforce opportunities and economic resilience in our region.

The WIB is committed to building and maintaining a diverse board and proactively recruits a wide range of groups for opportunities to serve on the board. Please explain your commitment to diversity, racial equity, and inclusion both personally as well as within your company or organization. Please provide examples.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of my personal and professional values, and they drive the work I do every day. As the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Sonoma State University, I oversee programs and initiatives designed to support students from diverse backgrounds, including first-generation college students, veterans, students with disabilities, and those from underrepresented communities. My role includes creating inclusive policies, fostering belonging, and addressing systemic barriers to ensure every individual has access to opportunities for success.

Personally, I strive to model inclusion in my leadership by fostering collaborative environments that value diverse perspectives. I actively engage with colleagues, students, and community partners to promote equity and cultural competence through workshops, strategic planning, and program evaluation.

I am proud to lead efforts that not only support the university's commitment to diversity but also strengthen the fabric of our broader community. I look forward to contributing these values and experiences to the Workforce Investment Board, helping to ensure that its initiatives are equitable, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse community we serve.

Please upload your resume here.

- [S.Ellison-Strategic-Leadership-Resume.pdf](#)