



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BHE MEMORANDUM 2026-003

TO: ASCC Faculty, Staff, and Students
FROM: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, Chairperson, Board of Higher Education
DATE: September 2, 2026
SUBJECT: Announcing New ASCC President: Ti'alemasunu Tupuola Dr. Mikaele Etuale

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

I am thrilled to announce that Ti'alemasunu Tupuola Dr. Mikaele Etuale has been officially named the next president of American Samoa Community College (ASCC), effective September 8, 2026.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to you all - faculty, staff, and students. Thank you for your incredible patience, resilience, and dedication as we navigated through this period of institutional transition. Your unwavering commitment kept our campus thriving.

I want to extend a special note of thanks to our Interim President, Sonny J. Leomiti. We are immensely grateful for his exceptional service, steady guidance, and profound leadership during these past months. He stepped into this role with total commitment, ensuring that our institution never lost momentum in its vital administrative and academic operations. Please join me in thanking Interim President Leomiti for his continuous, dedicated service to ASCC.

Our new president, Dr. Mikaele Etuale, comes to us with an outstanding track record in education and public leadership across American Samoa. He brings a deep understanding of our institution's values, culture, and potential. Throughout the search process, he stood out for his visionary leadership, dedication to student success, and alignment with our core institutional values.

Dr. Etuale shared the following message with our community: "Saili le Atamai – To Seek Knowledge. I am incredibly honored to return to the American Samoa Community College as its President. I look forward to collaborating closely with the Board, our talented faculty, dedicated staff, and inspiring students to build upon our legacy of academic excellence and service to our territory."

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Ti'alemasunu Tupuola Dr. Mikaele Etuale and his family as we begin this exciting next chapter together.

Sincerely,



Oreta Mapu Crichton, DrPA

Chairperson, Board of Higher Education

Cc: BHE File