

Komiti Pasifika 2023 – 24 Election Candidate Statements



Area 1 Candidates

Area 1 covers the following areas: Northland Upper, Central & Lower, Auckland, Counties-Manukau, Waikato, Central Plateau, Thames Valley, Bay of Plenty, Western Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and East Coast.

There are three candidates for two one-year positions. You may vote for two. They appear in alphabetical order.

Angela Lesienaivalu

Southern Cross Campus, Tāmaki Makaurau

Teaching Background and recent participation in Union Activities and Pacific Islands' Communities

I hail from the beautiful paradise of the Fiji Islands and I am very passionate about my culture and language. I am the Social Science Head of Learning; I specialise in teaching History and Geography but have also taught in other disciplines within and out of the discipline.

I am currently the Komiti Pasifika Executive member, and have been since mid-2020. There have been union activities that I have participated in during these well-known unprecedented times, when Covid hit the world including being the teachers voice at the CTU conference and meetings, speaking on how Covid has impacted our teachers, students and communities alike; concerns around students and NCEA was a pressing matter for most of our communities. Other union activities include the Issues and Organising conference, NCEA review advisory committee, Senior Leaders Advisory Committee. I have also attended conferences such as the Women in Leadership Summit and the Leadership Conference in Christchurch.

The 2022 Pasifika Fono held in Wellington was one of my biggest highlights as the KP chairperson, where I met a lot of new people. Was very intrigued to see our young Pasifika teachers attending also. The talanoa that occurred during this Fono was one where we could see that we Pasifika teachers are calling for support in order to meet the needs of our tamariki. There was a lot of love and hard work shared by our teachers that has gone by unacknowledged.

Personal Statement

I believe that unity is strength. This is why I have joined the union. Being a minority in Aotearoa, I stand to be the voice of Pasifika teachers. My role is to listen, collaborate and negotiate terms and conditions that are culturally responsive to our needs.

We have teachers at schools, whose students suffer from ills of economic disparity, such as unemployment rates at depression levels, and dismal social services for students and families. We have teachers who are new to teaching that have not been supported or guided and are lost or feel overwhelmed; opting out of teaching after 3 – 4 years. We have Pasifika teachers who are given pastoral roles and other extra-curricular roles without units or acknowledgments. This seems to be

the norm of take and keep on taking until the flame of the Pasifika teacher dies out. In counting, we find ourselves not in Senior Leadership roles and this needs to change.

It is this that I stand for – to be the voice – and to raise the injustice of acts of racism and bias. While negotiating, I intend to discuss Pasifika teacher wellbeing, workload, salary/units, safety and working conditions.

I believe that effective governance requires leadership that is strong and has the commitment and passion to have our voices heard. A voice that could make change, in ensuring that there are clear and transparent structures and processes for decision-making that involves transparency and accountability.

Sanjay Naidu

Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu, Tāmaki Makaurau

Teaching Background and recent participation in Union Activities and Pacific Islands' Communities

Taught in Primary School in Fiji – 1997 to 2000

Secondary Teaching in Fiji – 2001 – 2008

Kelston Boys High School – 2009 – 2010

Kidicorp Childcare – 2011

Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – 2012 to date

Teacher ECE, Primary and Secondary

Secondary Teaching – Physical Education and Health

Advocate for eLearning

Current Role – Educational Team Leader (Secondary) at Te Kura

Active PPTA member and Komiti Pasifika Rep in 2017 & 2018

Personal Statement

I am passionate about online learning and believe that every kaiako should have the support to upskill themselves in eLearning delivery and every ākonga should have the opportunity to access online learning anywhere and anytime.

As teachers I believe that we must take responsibility and work with the pasifika community to ensure we explore the needs of our children and work collaboratively towards providing them.

My masters research in eLearning has found self efficacy to be the utmost factor in slow uptake of eLearning. My aim is to help build capability and capacity for teachers to deliver eLearning with ease and confidence.

Camillia Padgett

Southern Cross Campus, Tāmaki Makaurau

Teaching Background and recent participation in Union Activities and Pacific Islands' Communities

2022	Workshop	PPT Pasifika Fono
2018 – Current	Pasifika Coordinator	Tamaki Makaurau PPTA
2017-Current	TIC Design and Photography	Southern Cross Campus
2016	Head of Department Arts	Northland College
2015-2016	TIC Design and Photography	Northland College
2015-2016	Pasifika Coordinator	Upper North

Personal Statement

Talofa lava! My name is Camillia Padgett and I currently work at Southern Cross Campus in the heart of Mangere. Having had a culturally diverse upbringing, I am proud of my Samoan Heritage.

I am an active contributor to the multiple Pasifika communities that I belong to, whether I am up in the Far North, here in Magele or further south in my home town of Whanganui. I am passionate about raising learning and achievement for all Pasifika students, to ensure that learning is equitable across the table. It is also a passion of mine to enable all Pasifika students to develop their voice, to be firm in their identity and to push the boundaries in which they are held within.

I am an active member of the PPTA, having participated at the Conference over the last 7years on and off. Am also an active member within my branch often advocating for our branch members.