



**County of Monterey**  
Valerie Ralph  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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# Economic Development Committee Application

## Gayle Pitman

District: 4

Initialed Application: Yes

### Applicant

First Name: **Gayle**

Middle Initial:

Last Name: **Pitman**

### Employment

Occupation: **Executive Leadership, Higher Education**

Job Title: **Vice President of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness, and Success**

Employer: **Hartnell College**

### Interests and Experiences

Able to attend meetings regularly and devote the time necessary to fulfill duties as a member?

**Yes**

Currently serving on a County of Monterey Board, Commission, Committee or other Community Advisory Group?

**No**

Has served on an advisory group before?

**No**

**I have served**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want serve:

**I have dedicated my career to advancing equity, education, and economic opportunity through higher education in California, and currently in Monterey County. For more than twenty-five years I have worked in California community colleges, first as faculty and now as a senior executive at Hartnell College, where I oversee institutional research, strategic planning, accreditation, and college-wide initiatives. These responsibilities require me to balance long-term strategic vision with day-to-day leadership, while fostering collaboration across faculty, staff, students, and community partners. Our current initiatives include a focus on strengthening pathways that connect education and workforce development that lead students to post-graduation success and achieving livable wages in our community, focusing specifically on agriculture, healthcare, and emerging**

industries that are vital to our region's growth. I would like to serve on the Economic Development board because I believe deeply in the power of partnerships to transform lives and communities. Monterey County has extraordinary assets, including our diverse population, strong agricultural base, cultural vibrancy, and strong higher education infrastructure. At the same time, our residents face significant challenges related to workforce readiness, living-wage attainment, and economic mobility. By serving on the board, I hope to contribute my expertise in higher education, strategic planning, and equity-focused initiatives to help foster inclusive economic development that uplifts families, diversifies industries, and sustains long-term prosperity for the entire county.

Please state the reason you would like to be a member of this board committee/commission/district:

I would like to be a member of the Economic Development Board because I see this work as essential to the long-term health and prosperity of Monterey County. Our economy is at a crossroads: while agriculture remains the backbone of our region, automation and global competition are rapidly changing the nature of agricultural work. Many long-time workers are at risk of displacement, and we must create clear pathways to upskill and reskill them so they can access stable, living-wage jobs in both traditional and emerging industries. At the same time, Monterey County faces some of the largest income inequality gaps in California. Too many residents, especially those who work in agriculture, hospitality, and service industries, struggle to earn a living wage. One of the most critical solutions to closing this gap is intentional, inclusive economic and workforce development that expands opportunities for all, in partnership with our local higher education institutions to provide critical training leading to high-wage jobs. In addition to creating economic opportunities, we must also address the interconnected challenges that impact economic vitality: limited affordable housing, inadequate broadband access in rural communities, seasonal employment patterns that leave families vulnerable, and persistent gaps in education and healthcare. These issues do not exist in isolation, and economic development efforts must bring together stakeholders across sectors to create solutions that strengthen communities.

How did you hear about the position?:

Monterey County Business Council