



Foreword

ISN'T IT AMAZING WHERE SERENDIPITY and an adventurous spirit can take us? My relationship with the Contra Costa Community College District (District) began in 1989. My colleague Thais Kishi, who was then a doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin, told me about an opening for a dean at Los Medanos College (LMC) in Pittsburg, California. As Thais described the college and the opportunity, they both sounded interesting, so I decided to apply.

I was contacted for an interview while participating in a League for Innovation leadership program in Charlotte, North Carolina. When I told the league's executive director, Terry O'Banion, about my interview, he was thrilled. He said, "You won't believe this, but a manager from LMC is attending the meeting." It gets better. The manager was Sandy Acebo, who had formerly held the dean's position for which I was applying. Terry called LMC President Chet Case on my behalf and encouraged him to accommodate my schedule. Then he introduced me to Sandy. We connected immediately, and she prepared me for my interview over breakfast one morning. Serendipity, indeed!