

**Porterville College Academic Senate Emeritus Status Nominee
Biographical Information Form**

Nominee: Karen Bishop

Title: Professor

Discipline: Sociology

Division: Social Science

Year of Retirement: 2024

Date Submitted: 4/15/24

Statement About Nominee:

Include a statement with details about the faculty Emeritus nominee’s career that illustrate their service to the college and students, and any other relevant biographical details that may be used for the purpose of informing the college administration, the Board of Trustees, and the District Chancellor about the individual, and for the purpose of publicizing and promoting the careers of the retiring or retired faculty under consideration for Emeritus status. Additional documents may also be included if relevant.

It is hard to summarize a career spanning over 25 years in only a few paragraphs. This short bio will have to suffice. Karen Bishop started at PC after earning an MA in Sociology from the University of Connecticut in 1997. Before she arrived, Richard Osborn taught both Anthropology and Sociology, building the Sociology program until we could hire a full-time professor. So, Karen has been our *first and only* full time Sociology professor. After Richard started the program, she built it into what it is today. She is responsible for increasing online course offerings, long before most other programs had distance education options. She also was instrumental in sociology course offerings in the Rising Scholars program which offers educational opportunities in a much-needed area. Karen consistently employed service-learning strategies to involve her sociology students in active, engaged application of the concepts they were learning. She has also pioneered some innovating scheduling ideas, including being an early adopter of online teaching strategies and accelerated, half-term and late-start classes.

Her colleagues have described her as being persistent and tenacious in pursuit of goals she values – she never gives up but always maintains courtesy and respectful treatment of those with whom she disagrees. She has been a master of the “polite no” when asked for something that she considers inappropriate or wrong. Karen showed great courage when she served as Secretary of the Academic Senate very early in her career (pre-tenure) at a time when the Senate lead a no-confidence vote of the then-president of the college and several administrative leaders.

She has worked consistently on diversity and equal opportunity initiatives. She has been a tireless advocate and supporter for LGBTQ students and colleagues. She has also served as CCA Negotiator in multiple contract cycles, the faculty co-chair of the Distance Education committee for many years, and, in recent years, she's helped lead some of the POKR efforts, helping other faculty members get certification. In addition to all of this, she has given multiple CHAP talks including, "Listening to the Land: Reconnecting with the Environment and the Promise of Healing", "Amalurra: Cooperation & Empathy in an Intentional Community".

Karen leaves us with a long legacy of commitment to students, commitment to other faculty members and commitment to Porterville College.