

Atkin Named Lone Finalist for President

The Lee College Board of Regents announced Tuesday that Interim President Jacob Atkin has been named the lone finalist for president of the college.

Atkin has led the college in the interim role since Feb. 26, 2026, working alongside faculty and staff members, students, and community partners to continue advancing the college's mission and strategic priorities.

"After careful consideration, the Board of Regents is proud to name Jacob Atkin as the lone finalist for president of the college," said Gilbert Santana, board chairman. "During his time serving as interim president, Mr. Atkin has demonstrated steady leadership, a deep commitment to student success, and a clear understanding of the college's mission to provide high-quality educational opportunities to Baytown and the surrounding communities. We are confident in his ability to lead the institution into its next chapter."

During his time as interim president, Atkin helped guide initiatives focused on areas such as student success, community partnerships, and expanding educational opportunities throughout the region.

"It is a tremendous honor to be named the lone finalist for president of Lee College. I care deeply about this college, our students, and the communities we serve, and I remain committed to building on our strong foundation while creating new opportunities for student success, workforce development, and community impact," said Atkin.

A skilled leader in higher education finance and administration, Atkin brings more than 20 years of experience supporting institutional effectiveness and student success.

Atkin joined Lee College in 2025 as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration, where he provided strategic oversight of the college's financial operations and administrative services. He is driven by a deep belief that higher education transforms lives and that educators play a vital role in opening pathways to opportunity and a brighter future for students.

Prior to his time at Lee College, he served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance at Houston City College (formerly Houston Community College), further strengthening his leadership expertise.

He spent 18 years at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, where he held several key roles, including Associate Vice President for Finance, Director of Internal Audit, and Manager of Departmental Accounting. His career reflects a strong commitment to fiscal stewardship, transparency, and operational excellence in higher education.

Atkin holds a bachelor of science in accounting from Utah Valley University and a master of science in taxation from Weber State University. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

State law requires a 21-day waiting period following the announcement of a lone finalist before the Board of Regents may officially appoint the college's next president. Final action is expected to take place at a future Board of Regents meeting following the required waiting period.