

46TH ANNUAL WESTOP CONFERENCE



**Nurturing Excellence.
Cultivating Members.
Shaping Tomorrow.**

MARCH 3 - 6, 2024

San Jose, California

46TH ANNUAL WESTOP CONFERENCE

SAN JOSE MUSEUM

**301 South Market St.,
San Jose, CA 95113**

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Shaping Tomorrow.**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 3 - 6, 2024



WESTOP Proudly Celebrates Women's History Month

As recently as the 1970s, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978.

The week March 8th, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point of the observance. The local Women's History Week activities met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week. Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special presentations in classrooms throughout the country and an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries. The finale for the week was a celebratory parade and program held in the center of downtown Santa Rosa, California.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

2023-2024



Dear WESTOP Family:

On behalf of the Board and Service Council of the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP), I welcome you to the WESTOP Annual Conference in San Jose, CA.

Our theme for this year's conference, "Nurturing Excellence, Cultivating Members, Shaping Tomorrow" resonates greatly with the core principles that drive WESTOP's mission and with my vision of what our conference will be. A place where seasoned, med-level, and new professionals can come together and share the wealth of knowledge that each of these groups possess with each other. With your presence, this gathering of passionate equity professionals will advance dialogue, facilitate collaboration, and stimulate groundbreaking solutions to promote college access.

San Jose offers an attractive backdrop for our conference. I am optimistic that Silicon Valley's

innovative and entrepreneurial spirit inspires us. For our gathering, we have curated an enriching lineup of workshops, plenaries, and keynote presentations that delve into various topics vital to fostering equitable access to higher education with the hope that it will equip us with the skills and information we need to be better leaders. We encourage you to actively engage in discussions, share your expertise, and embrace the collective wisdom present to envision a brighter future for our students.

Serving in the capacity of WESTOP President has been a privilege. I am proud of WESTOP's work advancing educational opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students. The dedication and commitment demonstrated by each WESTOP member have been exceptional, and I remain profoundly grateful for your work.

I am genuinely excited about seeing everyone in San Jose, the connections we will form, and the fruitful outcomes of our time together.

Once again, thank you for joining us at the 2024 WESTOP Annual Conference. Your presence makes a difference, and we look forward to creating lasting memories together.

Be well,

Victor M. Rojas Jr.

WESTOP President

Chief of Staff, Office of the President
California State University, Los Angeles



2024 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TRI-CHAIRS



BEN REYNOSO

Bernardo 'Ben' Reynoso is the Director of Student Success Programs at Fresno City College. He currently directs 3 TRÍO Programs (Upward Bound, Student Support Services and UB Math & Science). In the past, he has directed other equity programs such as FCC Dream Center and Cal-SOAP. He has served in a variety of leadership roles within WESTOP, COE and the Cencal Chapter, most notably served as WESTOP President 2019/2020.



DIANA VASQUEZ

Diana Vasquez serves as the Director of Upward Bound at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). She is a proud Titan, earning her Bachelor of Science in Human Services, with an emphasis on Mental Health, and a Masters of Science in Higher Education from CSUF. For over 10 years, she has worked with TRIO and Equity programs that service the different communities in Orange County.



MIKE OSORIO

Mike Osorio is the Director of Student Services & Wellness at Evergreen Valley College and an advocate of innovative thinking and ingenious approach to initiatives and strategic planning. Mike has served as a previous Upward Bound Director, CenCal Chapter President and Equity Program Director for EOPS.

The background features a modern building with a glass facade on the left and a colorful mural on the right. The mural depicts a woman's face with intricate golden patterns and a basket of fruit. In the foreground, there are vibrant pink flowers. A semi-transparent pink box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

**2023-2024
WESTOP BOARD
OF DIRECTORS &
SERVICE
COUNCIL**

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



President

Victor Rojas

President Elect

Dalia Hernandez

Past President

Armando Bustos

Chief Financial Officer

Nilda Iniguez

Secretary

Jasmine Torres

Parliamentarian

Lydia Perez

Chapter Presidents

Arizona

Eden Eaton

Nevada

Nicholas Goodsell

Pacific Island

Nick Childs

Central California

April Alexander

Northern California

Gema Quiroz-Torres

Southern California

Cuauhtemoc Solorio

Service Council

Conference Tri-Chair

Ben Reynoso

Conference Tri-Chair

Diana Vasquez

Conference Tri-Chair

Mike Osorio

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Chair

Vacant

Legislation & Education Chair

Jesus Maldonado

Membership & Elections Chair

Wendy Adams

Resource Development

Oswaldo Lopez, Jr.

Professional Development Chairs

Keyanna Hatcher
Tomasia Mauricio

Public Relations Chair

Horacio Aceves

Alumni Chair

Vacant

Archives Chair

Michele Scott

Fair Share Chair

Ana Prado

Technology Chair

Amel Khan

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



DR. CHARLES RATLIFF

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH
1978-1980

MICHAEL DANG

ASIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES FOR EDUCATION
1984-1985

DAVID FERGUSON

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
CHICO
1992-1993

JOE RAMIREZ

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN
UNIVERSITY
1998-1999

DARLENE CONWELL

UNIVERSITY OF SAN
FRANCISCO
2003-2004

ROBERT NORRIS

UNIVERSITY OF SAN
FRANCISCO
1980-1981

SANDY MATSUI

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
BAKERSFIELD
1985-86 & 1989-90

SERGIO A. LOPEZ

IMPERIAL VALLEY
COLLEGE
1993-1994

GERALD BRYANT

UNIVERSITY OF THE
SISKIYOU
1999-2000

JAMES ODA

LEEWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
2004-2005

KEITH HORI

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY
1981-1982

DR. HAROLD CAMPBELL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
HAYWARD
1986-1987

CHERYL ARNOLD-MOORE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH
1994-1995

D. MATTHEW BENNY

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL
UNIVERSITY
2000-2001

JOSE MARTINEZ-SALDANA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
MONTEREY
2005-2006

DAVID GODOY

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LOS ANGELES
1982-1983

JANICE DIRDEN-COOK

UNIVERSITY OF SAN
FRANCISCO
1988-89 & 1991-92

ADRIAN TANAKEYOWMA

NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY
1996-1997

LEONARD WOODS

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA,
RENO
2001-2002

LYDIA PEREZ

ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY
2006-2007



DR. JOY BRITAIN

PASADENA CITY
COLLEGE
2007-2008

DONELLE DAVIS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
DAVIS
JULY 2011

CRISTINA AGUIRRE

BARRIO LOGAN COLLEGE
INSTITUTE
2014-2015 & 2015-2016

BERNARDO REYNOSO

FRESNO CITY
COLLEGE
2019-2020

VICTOR ROJAS

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LOS ANGELES
2023-2024

TOMASA MAURICIO

SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY
2008-2009

SERGIO GALVEZ

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN
UNIVERSITY
2011-12 & 2012-13

DR. DIANA TAPIA-WRIGHT

REEDLEY
COLLEGE
2016-2017

DR. KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

NEVADA STATE
COLLEGE
2020-2021

MICHELE SCOTT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH
2009-2010

OLGA DIAZ

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
2013-2014

SAMUEL BLANCO III

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
DAVIS
2017-2018

JESUS MALDONADO

SONOMA STATE
UNIVERSITY
2021-2022

RALPH TOPETE

EDVOLUTION,
INC.
2010-2011

ANITA BLANCO

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY
JULY 2014 - JANUARY 2015

MICHELLE THOMAS

ARIZONA WESTERN
COLLEGE
2018-2019

ARMANDO BUSTOS

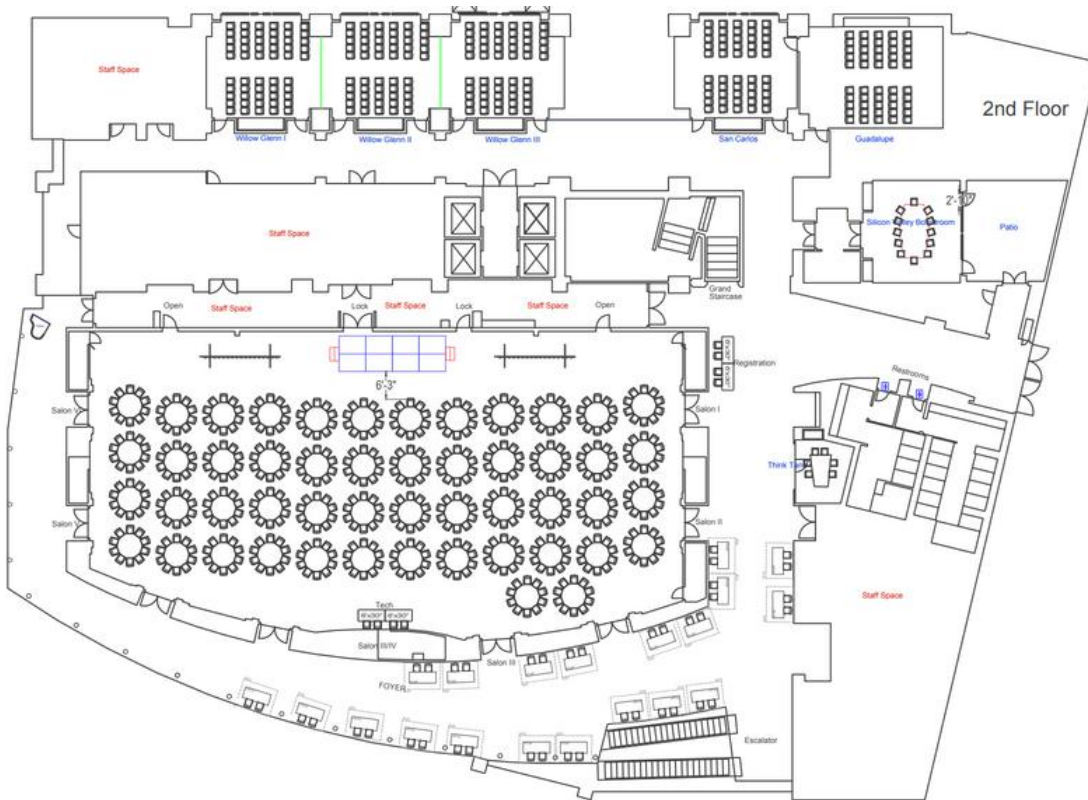
AZUSA PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY
2022 - 2023



SAN JOSE MARRIOTT

4301 South Market St.,
 San Jose, CA 95113
 Phone: 408-280-1300

Level II



Level III



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



RUBEN E. CANEDO

UC Berkeley

Ruben E. Canedo (he/they) has dedicated the last 15 years to caring, supporting, and advocating for communities as a public speaker. Most recently, Ruben was awarded the National TRIO Achievers Award for his impact across healing, disability, and transformative justice efforts in public higher education and non-profit organizations. In addition to his public speaking career, Ruben is consistently sought after to design and facilitate team retreats, leadership meetings, and values-centered strategy processes. Fun fact, Ruben grew up in a traditional karate family and is currently a third-degree black belt.



DR. KEITH CURRY

President, Compton College

Dr. Keith Curry is the President of the Compton College and CEO of the Compton Community College District. Compton College is the 114th California Community College, achieving initial accreditation status on June 7, 2017. Dr. Curry is responsible for overseeing all departments and functions of Compton College and the District and serves as secretary for the CCCD Board of Trustees. He brings an abundance of energy and innovative ideas to Compton College, along with a wealth of experience as a postsecondary education administrator.

Dr. Curry is an active member of the Foundation for Compton Community College District, the Association of California Community College Administrators, the California Community College Athletic Association, the Statewide Association of Community Colleges (SWACC), the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice Advisory Board, and the President's Roundtable. He has participated on Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Visiting Teams, most recently for San Quentin University Prison Project.

In 2018, Dr. Curry received the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award. The Association of California Community College Administrators bestows the award to administrators who demonstrate integrity, principle, compassion, strength in leadership, and who have made significant contributions to the college district and community.

At the 2019 Community College League of California Annual Conference, Dr. Curry was honored as one of three 2019 Champions of Equity by the Campaign for College Opportunity and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational fund. The award honors those who prioritize student-centered policies that produce equitable outcomes and expand opportunities for Californians.

In June 2020, Dr. Curry was invited by Governor Newsom's Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education Lande Ajose to serve on the California Higher Education Recovery with Equity Task Force.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Curry earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor's degree in American studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Curry is an adjunct faculty member for the College of Education at California State University, Fullerton.

Equity Statement

Racial equity is a process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. We have to be intentional and continue the practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of people of color. We must be unapologetic about addressing racial equity, because our position and decisions will impact students and their families for generations.



DR. DAISY GONZALES

Deputy Chancellor, California Community College

Daisy Gonzales, Ph.D., serves as the Deputy Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the largest system of public higher education in the United States. She leads the 116-community college system, which serves over 1.9 million students with a student-centered mindset and a goal of creating equitable and

supportive ecosystems where students thrive.

She is an experienced and unapologetic advocate for student success. Born into an immigrant family in Southern California and raised as a former foster youth, Dr. Gonzales was among the first in her family to attend college. She credits her time in the Los Angeles foster care system and schools as having shaped her views of the integral role public institutions play in the lives of students and the economic development in a community.

Dr. Gonzales was appointed interim chancellor in August 2022 by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Prior to this appointment, she served as a deputy chancellor from 2018–2022, and served as acting chancellor from July through November 2021.

Prior to joining the Chancellor's Office in 2017, Dr. Gonzales served students as a dual-immersion third-grade teacher; a budget consultant for the California State Assembly Budget Committee, where she managed \$11.2 billion in state and federal programs; and was the principal consultant for the Assembly Appropriations Committee. She also served as associate director for Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), a non-partisan research center at Stanford University focused on designing equitable outcomes at all levels of the state's education system.

Dr. Gonzales is a proud community college alum of Los Angeles Valley College. She graduated from Mills College with a bachelor's degree in public policy and earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from UC Santa Barbara. She is also a former Aspen Institute presidential fellow, serves on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and is the co-founder of the Sacramento Latina Leaders Network and the California Community Colleges Women's Caucus. In 2021, she received the California Legislative Women's Caucus Woman of the Year Award from Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, in recognition of her leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROFESSIONAL PANELISTS



DR. JOSHUA MOON-JOHNSON

Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, West Valley College

Dr. Joshua Moon-Johnson (he or they) is a best-selling author, social justice consultant, and speaker who has dedicated his career and life to LGBTQ+ advocacy, racial justice, and education reform. Dr. Moon-Johnson serves as the Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs at West Valley College. They also previously served in diverse roles including as the Vice President of Student Services at the College of San Mateo, Dean of Equity at American River College where they oversaw eight TRiO programs, Assistant Dean/Director of the Multicultural Student Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Director of the LGBTQ Center at UCSB. Joshua also served as a resident assistant for the Upward Bound program at the University of South Alabama. Joshua's understanding of identity, equity, and conflict has led him to a career educating on topics of social justice and has led to becoming a best-selling author with his first book, *Beyond Surviving: From Religious Oppression to Queer Activism*, which was also ranked #3 on Book Authority's 20 Best-Selling LGBT Activism Books of All Time. Joshua also published *Queer People of Color in Higher Education* in 2017, and his newest book, *Queer & Trans Advocacy in the Community College*, published with Dr. Emilie Mitchell and Dr. Lemuel Watson came out in 2022.



DR. MIA SETTLES-TIDWELL

Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and University Diversity Officer, California State University, Sacramento

Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell is currently the Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and University Diversity Officer at Sacramento State. Earning three degrees: her bachelor's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley and her Masters and Doctorate from California State University, East Bay in Educational Leadership for Social Justice. She is a self-proclaimed, At the Table Activist, with over 30 years of educational leadership expertise in both K-12 and higher education systems. Mia is leading the implementation of Sac State's Antiracism and Inclusive Campus Action Plan, and co-leads efforts like the Black Success Initiative, Title IX Assessment Implementation Team, Taskforces to Address Antisemitism and Islamophobia, and the CSU Juneteenth Symposium to name a few. In addition, she teaches Organizational Leadership in the Education Doctoral Program at Sac State. She is known for her effective and stealth approach to challenging institutions to examine inequitable practices and remove barriers that impede success for underserved groups. Dr. Settles-Tidwell believes strongly that we have all inherited "isms" and "phobias" yet we are situated very differently to address them. Therefore, she models an unwavering commitment to use her position of influence to elevate the voices of those who have been silenced. She applies innovative and equity-centered strategies to common educational equity-centered dilemmas, and nurtures strong cultural, racial, and social partnerships amongst diverse groups. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and family, writing poetry, fine dining, and watching reality TV shows.

PROFESSIONAL PANELISTS



DR. SEHER AWAN

President, Mission College

Seher Awan is a passionate social justice advocate. As a first-generation community college student, she has dedicated her career to building on her passion for helping others. Dr. Awan has an extensive educational background and has earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, a Masters of

Business Administration, a Masters of Public Administration and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. Dr. Awan has served in numerous roles within higher education. In 2014, she was hired as Vice President of Administrative Services for San Diego City College. With her career beginnings in student services, she brought a unique approach to finance and administrative services. In 2018, Dr. Awan became the youngest California Community College President at 32. Joining the Los Angeles Southwest College team as president, Dr. Awan jumped in with enthusiasm, energy, and a focus on student-centered care. She led the college through extensive organizational change, fiscal recovery, and the COVID-19 Pandemic, keeping students at the center of her decision-making. She established new community partnerships and brought in resources every year of her tenure. In 2022, Dr. Awan transitioned to become the President of Mission College in Santa Clara, CA. Dr. Awan served as a Wheelhouse Fellow in 2019 and is an Aspen Institute New Presidents Fellow. She has over eighteen years of experience in higher education, with an intentional focus on equity and social justice, empowering the most underserved communities through education.

KIMBERLY JONES

COE President



On October 1, 2023, Kimberly Jones assumed the presidency of the Council for Opportunity in Education. For nearly two decades, she has served as a leading advocate for low-income students, first-generation students, students with disabilities, and other marginalized learners. Previously, Ms. Jones fulfilled several

roles at the Council. In her present role, she serves as the chief executive officer of the Council, which represents the interests of its member colleges, universities, and community-based agencies that serve nearly 900,000 students in the Federal TRIO Programs. As president, she serves as the primary liaison between the Council and the United States Congress, the Executive Branch, and all governmental agencies as well as all other postsecondary education associations. Additionally, she oversees the organization's professional development offerings for college access and success educators; scholarly and experiential learning opportunities for low-income, first-generation students; and the research agenda of COE's Pell Institute for the Study of Higher Education.

Prior to joining COE, Ms. Jones was an Associate in the Communications Practice Group at the law firm of Dow Lohnes, PLLC (now Cooley LLP), where she advised clients on a variety of broadcast and media law issues.

Ms. Jones has served in leadership roles within various professional and civic organizations, including the Committee for Education Funding, of which she served as President. She is an inaugural Advisory Board Member for Black History 365, a comprehensive textbook and curriculum guide designed for students and educators that spans the breadth of Black American history, and a Board Member of Marked By COVID, a non-partisan charitable organization that promotes accountability, recognition, and justice for the millions of victims of COVID-19, including her father. Ms. Jones also a member of the Junior League of Washington and volunteers with the DC Family & Youth Initiative, an organization that provides mentorship and support for young people in and aging out of the foster care system in the Washington, DC metro area.

A Harry S. Truman Scholar, Ms. Jones is a graduate of Yale University and the Georgetown University Law Center. In 2016, Ms. Jones was named one of the "40 Under 40 Nation's Best Advocates" by the National Bar Association and also received the organization's Excellence in Activism Award. In 2018, she was selected for the Diversity Executive Leadership Program sponsored by ASAE, the American Society of Association Executives. In 2021, she earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential from ASAE.



SAM BLANCO

COE Board Chair

Sam Blanco III, born and raised in the California central valley in the small agricultural town of Delano. Graduated from East Bakersfield High school and the first from his family to attend a four-year university. Earned a degree in Economics from UC Davis in 1992 and a Masters Degree in Educational

Administration from California State University Sacramento in 1999. Sam has worked at UC Davis for the past 31 years, currently as the Director of Pre-College Programs which includes Talent Search and Upward Bound. In addition to demonstrating leadership on the UC Davis campus, Sam has been very engaged in the larger Woodland community as School Board Trustee with the Woodland Joint Unified School District from 2012-16. Sam has also served in leadership roles regionally in the state as a member and officer of the Northern California Chapter of WESTOP (Western Association for Educational Opportunity Professionals), served as the WESTOP President in 2017-18, Co-Chair of the COE 2021-22 Resource Development Committee and currently the COE Chair for 2023-24. Sam is also a proud father of two daughters and married to his wife Pam for 22 years.



NURTURING EXCELLENCE.
CULTIVATING MEMBERS.
SHAPING TOMORROW

A large, illuminated neon sign in red and yellow letters spelling "SAN PEDRO SQUARE" is mounted on the side of a building at night. The building has a modern, industrial aesthetic with a corrugated metal roof and exposed ceiling structure. Warm string lights are visible under the eaves.

SAN PEDRO SQUARE

46th WESTOP CONFERENCE
NURTURING EXCELLENCE.
CULTIVATING MEMBERS.
SHAPING TOMORROW.



AGENDA

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Pre-Conference

Saturday, March 2, 2024

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Pre-Conference Topic #1

Willow Glen I & II

Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Pre-Conference Topic #3

Willow Glen I & II

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Pre-Conference Topic # 4

Blossom I & II

Roundtable

Sunday, March 3, 2024

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm P3 Initiative Roundtable

Willow Glen I & II

Conference

Sunday, March 3, 2024

11:00 am – 4:00 pm Conference Registration

Ballroom Atrium/Foyer

11:00 am – 4:00 pm Exhibits

Ballroom Atrium/Foyer

11:00 am – 4:00 pm Silent Auction

Ballroom Atrium/Foyer

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Welcome & Plenary

San Jose Ballroom

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner on your own

6:15 pm – 7:00 pm Newcomers Reception

San Pedro Square*

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm President's Reception

San Pedro Square*

Monday, March 4, 2024

8:00 am – 10:30 am Conference Registration

Ballroom Atrium/Foyer

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Exhibits

Ballroom Atrium/Foyer

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast on your own

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Monday, March 4, 2024 (Continued)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 9:15 am – 10:15 am | Workshop Strand 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• W1• W2• W3• W4• W5• W6• W7• W8• W9 | Almaden Blossom I Blossom II Blossom III Willow Glen I Willow Glen II Willow Glen III Guadalupe San Carlos |
| 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | Chapter Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arizona• Central California• Nevada• Northern California• Pacific Islands• Southern California | Almaden Guadalupe San Carlos Blossom I, II, & III Willow Glen III Willow Glen I & II San Jose Ballroom |
| 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | Lunch Provided | San Jose Ballroom |
| 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm | Plenary Session | San Jose Ballroom |
| 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Conference Registration | Ballroom Atrium/Foyer |
| 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Workshop Strand 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• W1• W2• W3• W4• W5• W6• W7• W8• W9 | Almaden Blossom I Blossom II Blossom III Willow Glen I Willow Glen II Willow Glen III Guadalupe San Carlos |

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Monday, March 4, 2024 (Continued)

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Trending Topics in Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trending Topic 1• Trending Topic 2• Trending Topic 3• ELI (Invitation Only) | Blossom I & II Willow Glen I & II San Carlos Guadalupe |
| 5:00 pm | Dinner on your own | |
| 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm | Alumni Reception | Invitation Only |

Tuesday, March 5, 2023

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Breakfast on your own | |
| 8:00 am – 10:30 am | Conference Registration | Ballroom Atrium/Foyer |
| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Exhibits | Ballroom Atrium/Foyer |
| 9:00 am – 10:15 am | Candidates Statements & Meeting of the Members | San Jose Ballroom |
| 10:30 am – 3:30 pm | Elections: Voting | |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am | Workshop Strand 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• W1• W2• W3• W4• W5• W6• W7• W8• ELI (Invitation Only) | Almaden Blossom I Blossom II Blossom III Willow Glen I Willow Glen II Willow Glen III San Carlos Guadalupe |
| 11:45 am – 12:30 pm | Lunch Provided | San Jose Ballroom |

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (Continued)

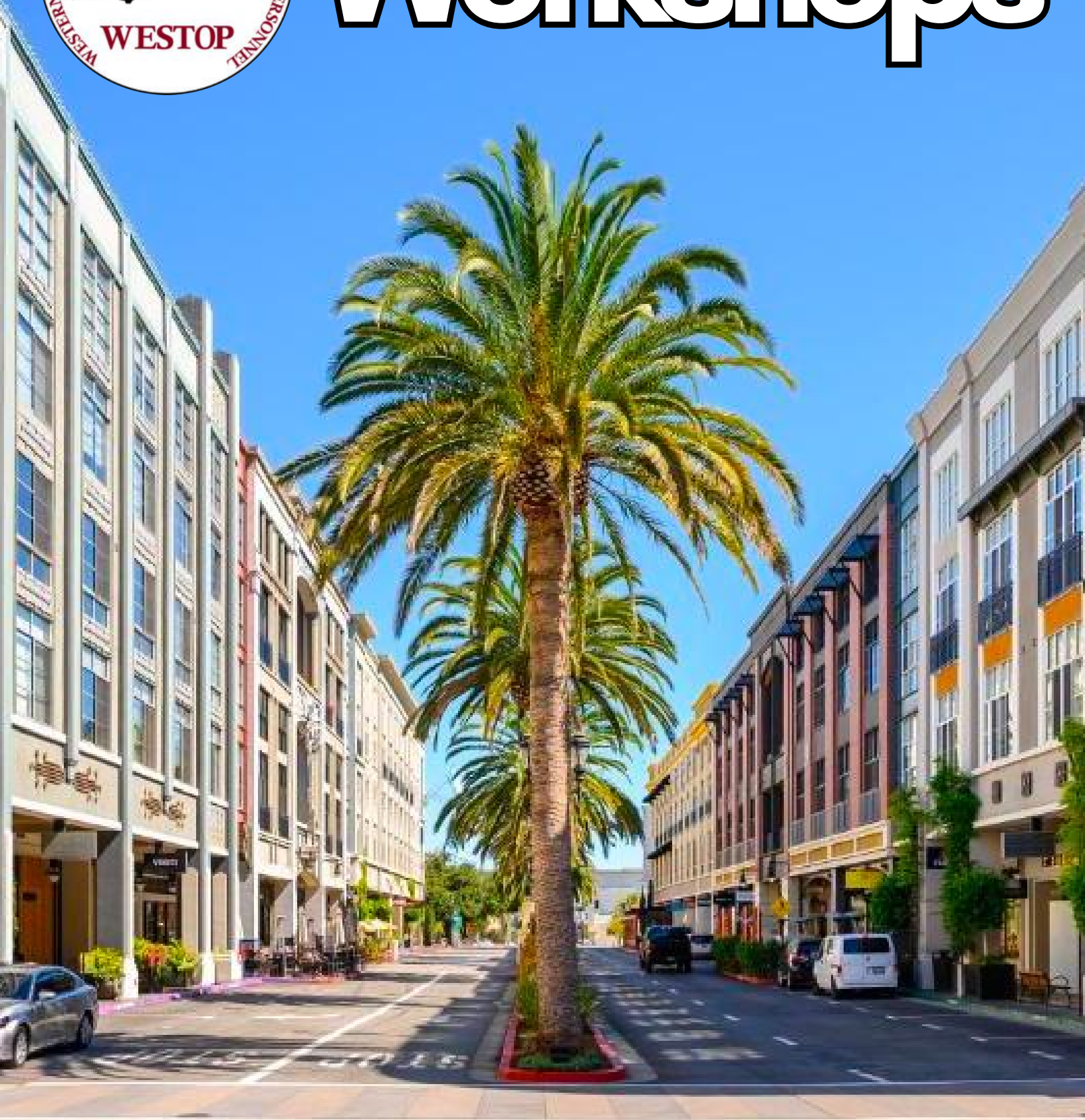
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|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | WESTOP Achievers Awards | San Jose Ballroom |
| 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm | Plenary Session | San Jose Ballroom |
| 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Workshop Strand 4 | |
| | • W1 | Almaden |
| | • W2 | Blossom I |
| | • W3 | Blossom II |
| | • W4 | Blossom III |
| | • W5 | Willow Glen I |
| | • W6 | Willow Glen II |
| | • W7 | Willow Glen III |
| | • W8 | Guadalupe |
| | • W9 | San Carlos |
| 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm | President's Banquet & Results | San Jose Ballroom |
| 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm | Plenary Session | San Jose Ballroom |
| 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm | Dance | San Jose Ballroom |

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Breakfast on your own | |
| 9:00 am – 10:00 am | Plenary Session: COE Updates | San Jose Ballroom |
| 10:00 am – 11:00 am | Plenary Session: U.S. Department of Ed Updates | San Jose Ballroom |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Swear In & Closing Remarks | San Jose Ballroom |
| 12:00 pm | Conference Concludes | San Jose Ballroom |



Workshops



W1. Empower Yourself & Your Students Through Freely Accessible Educational Technology Tools

Presented by: Gabrielle Pittle and Chris Scott

Room: Almaden

Buckle up in this fast-paced workshop where you'll discover a trove of free, forward-thinking educational technology tools to engage your students and make your job easier, including AI tools, STEAM and mental health resources, tutoring and so much more. This session outlines the most innovative, useful, and accessible edtech out there that can help empower you and unlock your student's potential. This is a high-energy session with LOTS of resources, please bring your favorites to share!

W2. Sense of Belonging: The Key to Creating Motivated First Gen Students & Successful First Gen Programs

Presented by: Jahsmine Ambata and Jennifer Segura

Room: Blossom I

Unlock your programs potential with our KEY rule to student success. First-generation students face difficulties that negatively influence students desire to continue schooling. A sense of belonging directly impacts your student's motivation, self-belief, and perseverance through challenges. Come unlock the endless possibilities that you can create by introducing a culture of belonging in your program.

W3. Performance Pilot Partnership: Serving Undocumented Students in ETS, UB, and SSS

Presented by: Dalia Hernandez and Jairo Leon

Room: Blossom II

The workshop addresses the unique opportunities and challenges in serving undocumented students in approved California TRIO Programs. This workshop seeks to create a collaborative space where practitioners can explore strategies and best practices for outreach, recruitment, and serving undocumented students.

W4. Risky Business: A Roadmap to Risk Management Excellence for TRIO Programs

Presented By: Ellen Houston and Jen Sim

Room: Blossom III

Learn a wide range of concepts and skills related to identifying, assessing, mitigating, and managing risks in various contexts, such as project management, working with minors, student/staff travel, campus and community collaborations, secondary insurance, emergency planning, and mandated reporting.

W5. Seeing Beyond the Rainbow: What To Do When You Fail

Presented by: Dr. John L Mason and Mrs. Brandy Mitchum

Room: Willow Glen I

Join us for an interactive session where we acknowledge that setbacks are part of the journey for TRIO personnel and programs alike. Are you facing challenges in meeting your targets, struggling to engage students, or witnessing a decline in completion rates? This session focuses not on the inevitability of failure but on the crucial aspect of recalibrating efforts post-failure.

W6. The Ultimate TRIO: Families, Students, and Education Champions! Family Engagement Strategies that Reinforce Student Success

Presented by: Jennifer Zarco and Mari Jimenez-Ortiz

Room: Willow Glen II

Educating and supporting our underrepresented students to successfully achieve their goal of post-secondary education is a shared responsibility. Equally, our families have needs and barriers that may prevent them from fully understanding how to assist their students. This presentation invites you to explore the innovative methods created to engage and educate families about college access while providing tools for families' personal development.

W7. Creating a Sticky TRIO Program: The role of program staff, student-led events, and program space

Room: Willow Glen III

Presented by: Maria Sandra Jimenez, Sione Lavaka, Melody Mehrabi, and Genesis Alvarez-Cortez

How can our TRIO programs create an environment so welcoming our participants always want to stay? The solution is to create a Sticky TRIO Program that facilitates collaborative study spaces and varied types of teamwork. This session will discuss the ways we redesigned the program's active learning space to handle more student interaction and a sense of community, programming strategies, including formal/informal invitations, workshop/presentation topics and event evaluations/surveys, and joint campus activities that have contributed to creating a sticky TRIO program. Join us as we share our journey toward creating spaces that invite students to interact with each other and their TRIO program, thus creating a "sticky TRIO Program."

W8. The Game of Life: Topics that are GUARANTEED to Maximize Student Participation & Engagement

Presented by: Jim Giovannini and Yuval Trachtenberg

Room: Guadalupe

Student engagement rates in TRiO programs as well as in classrooms across the U.S. can be a struggle. Regardless of the reason(s), our students are missing out on services that will have a positive impact on their future. This session will show you how to achieve nearly 100% student engagement and ensure that students are prepared for success when it comes to the Game of Life! Attendees will learn how to motivate their students, master the correct study habits, conquer standardized tests, successfully navigate college, attain their dream job, and build generational wealth. Please join us for an engaging session!

W9. Accessibility Made Easy: Enhancing Multimedia and Providing Accessible Digital Content

Presented by: Alfred Liu

Room: San Carlos

In this workshop, you will gain valuable information about improving your digital content and making it accessible for your students and their families. Through a series of case-based and discussion-based activities, you will learn about Mayer's Multimedia Principles (Mayer, 2014) and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (World Wide Web Consortium, 2023) and how you can apply them to not only visually enhance your digital content, but also provide accessible content for your audience.

Monday, March 4, 2024

Workshop Strand II

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

W1. If You Think You Can Cure Test Anxiety, Think Again

Presented by: David Walddherr

Room: Almaden

Prep companies recommend a big breakfast and extra sleep to reduce student test anxiety. Not true. Test anxiety is assumed to be harmful. But it may not be as bad as you think. We will discuss research-proven anxiety interventions that actually work. You and your students can forever control test anxiety.

W2. Facing the Uncertainty of TRIP Programs Using the VUCA Method of Team Development

Presented by: Dr. John L Mason

Room: Blossom I

Navigating the uncertainties within TRIO, encompassing students, parents, staff members, schools, and community partners, poses a challenge in determining the way forward. Understandably, our staff is encountering difficulties in engaging with our crucial partners. This state is aptly described by the acronym VUCA, signifying Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity. Beyond a mere catchphrase, VUCA provides TRIO personnel with a valuable framework to strategically strengthen their leadership capabilities, fostering the development of a culture of excellence tailored for the students of tomorrow.

Join our session, where we will employ small group work, scenario training, and group discussions to translate Coaching, Teaching, Training, and Mentoring into actionable strategies for staff members at all levels. This interactive approach aims to address immediate challenges in student and community engagement while concurrently cultivating a culture of excellence within your program. Attendees can expect insights into best practices, real-world examples, and practical takeaways to enhance their ability to navigate and thrive in the evolving landscape of TRIO.

W3. From the Sidelines to Center Stage: Developing TRIO Participants Social Capital and Leadership Skills through Student Leadership Groups

Presented by: Noah Walls

Room: Blossom II

Whether in our programs, our institutions, or our communities, TRIO program participants have historically been made voiceless actors in the spaces they occupy, despite their high-value, high-interest stakeholder status. Student Leadership Groups within TRIO programs are a valuable way to develop the social capital and leadership skills necessary to move program participants from the sidelines to center stage. Come learn how Upward Bound Classic & Math Science Programs at the University of Nevada, Reno have committed to developing their student leaders and the benefits reaped by both students and program alike.

W4. Servingness as: Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility to Cultivate Belonging

Presented by: Ayo Strange and "JT" Jasmine Marie Mageno Torres

Room: Blossom III

Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility are frameworks that find origins in the healthcare field as responses to support indigenous communities. In more recent case studies, higher education practitioners have utilized these frameworks to create safe and affirming spaces to support a sense of belonging for culturally diverse student populations. This session aims to explore servingness (Garcia, 2019), cultural safety, cultural humility, Community Cultural Wealth (Yosso, 2005) and collectivist commUNITY values through the lens of educational opportunity support services.

W5. Graduate School: Don't Just Get In , Get Paid. You Got 99 Problems, but Financing Is Not One.

Presented by: Jarell Green and Heather Williams

Room: Willow Glen I

Financing graduate school is the primary perceived barrier for first-generation, low-income, underrepresented students, keeping them from pursuing a graduate degree. Experts who have assisted hundreds of students within this population in not only attending, but fully funding graduate school and receiving substantial stipends, will share vital information that will change your students' lives. They will cover assistantships, fellowships, university initiatives, and other funding sources while explaining how to prepare your scholars to be outstanding candidates.

W6. From Drag Queens to Geometry: Building a Toolkit to Create Engaging and Culturally Responsive Events for Your Programs While Meeting CFR Objectives

Presented by: Francisco J Barbosa, Mari Jimenez-Ortiz, and Jennifer Segura

Room: Willow Glen II

"It's giving workshop of the year," as Gen-Z would say. Come create your own toolkit on how to successfully plan and execute academic and enrichment workshops that not only meet CFR objectives, but also keep up with the ever-changing trends and learning styles of a new generation.

W7. It Takes a Village: How to Create Sense of Belonging and Culture Through Peer Mentorship

Presented by: James Beattie, Jeimi Picazo Farias, and Shiane Rene

Room: Willow Glen III

Learn a multifaceted approach to how peer mentors can make a positive and lasting impact on individual students and the first-generation culture in your programs and across campus. As first-generation students who are currently experiencing and successfully navigating college, upper-class peer mentors are ideally situated to facilitate and enhance college student experience both culturally and academically at very little cost to your grant.

W8. Global Opportunities for TRIO Programs: Culture, Travel, and Language

Presented by: Adrian Rosado

Room: Guadalupe

Exposure to other cultures, whether through the classroom or through travel, enhances students' grades, and ultimately, their career path. Explore how Zion Leadership Group can help your TRIO Program deliver an international-oriented curriculum, and help your students become a truly global leader. In this session, we will showcase how we can work with your program through successful case studies and funding models. Specifically, we will share with you how to bring your students to Puerto Rico, Colombia, Philippines & Tanzania for a week-long experience and Global Leadership Symposium. Since 2017, Zion Leadership Group has hosted over 50 TRIO groups on experiences around the world.

W9. Connecting Students to the STEAM Careers of Tomorrow

Presented by: Elise Dunaway

Room: San Carlos

Looking for support recruiting students for programming and engaging them in something new? In this session, participants will explore a variety of courses, pathways, and resources to prepare students for 21st Century careers, engage them in their learning, and build community along the way.

Monday, March 4, 2024:

Trending Topics

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

#1. Navigating Careers as a First-Gen Professional

Presented by: Dr. Joshua Moon Johnson

Room: Blossom I, II

Join a conversation about navigation, owning, and advancing your career as a first-generation professional. This open discussion will engage participants related to career advancement, understanding organizational cultures and norms, advocating for change within an organization, and maintaining wellness and authenticity with one's multiple identities.

#2. Cancel Culture: avoiding political landmines within diversity, equity, and inclusion spaces

Presented by: Dr. Mia Settles Tidwell

Room: Willow Glen I, II

Have you ever felt like you were in a workplace twilight zone, the oppression Olympics or caught in the middle of workplace DEIBJ dilemma? This roundtable is for you! Join in on a rare and candid conversation with a cabinet level executive to learn how to successfully navigate diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging workplace politics, stay in the game, and set your students, staff, and yourself up for future success.

#3. Developing Resilience, Maintaining Self-Care, and Finding Your Joy

Presented by: Dr. Seher Awan

Room: San Carlos

Spend time with a college president and reflect on best practices to build your resilience while maintaining your self-care to have longevity within your career. With these best practices you will be able to maintain your personal and professional joy while making a difference in the lives of the students that you love.

W1. Paradigm Shift: The Secret to Building Unshakeable Confidence (and how to teach your students)

Presented by: Jacqueline Amparo and Maria Barragan

Room: Almaden

Join us for a fun, engaging, interactive session as we share the secret to building unshakeable confidence and some myths and truths about confidence.

W2. Empowering First-Gen and Undocumented Students to Create Their Own Social Capital

Presented by: Jacqueline Amparo and Maria Barragan

Room: Blossom I

Loyola Marymount University's SSS program teaches first-generation and undocumented students how to intentionally develop professional relationships from scratch to land internships and jobs, a life-enhancing skill that improves post-college outcomes and self-confidence. Presenters will share data, best practices and show how their curriculum increases equity for LMU students.

W3. No Home for Homeboys and Homegirls

Room: Blossom II

Presented by: Jasmine Marie Mageno Torres, Cuauhtémoc Solorio, and Javier Mageno Sr.

With the emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism training within our institutions and organizations, a large group of students and professionals are being overlooked - the Homegirls and Homeboys, or Homies who represent 'Hood Culture. We cannot address the issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism without addressing the dynamics that got us here: Colonization and its effects on all our lives, especially how 'Hood Culture is bullied out of academia for students and their families, well into professional experiences. This session is an educational and experiential workshop designed to equip participants to take a deep dive into engaging in productive conversations about the impacts of colonization and its effects on society, with significant emphasis on the lived experiences of - the Homegirls and Homeboys, or Homies who represent 'Hood Culture. This session will prepare participants for real change regarding our racial and social dynamics by addressing the root of racial inequities and social injustices and providing a path toward cultural healing.

W4. Everyone Wants to Become a Doctor, Very Few Know HOW to Become One!

Presented By: Kenia Ramirez Moreno and Jarell Green

Room: Blossom III

If first-generation, low-income, underrepresented groups of K-12 or incoming college freshmen were surveyed about their career aspirations, becoming a medical doctor would often sit at the top of the list. The primary issue with these aspirations is most students do not understand how to bring their medical dreams to fruition. This workshop, led by a former intensive care registered nurse turned TRIO professional and another powerhouse TRIO professional, will explore how to actually position your students to be competitive medical school applicants and explore an innovative collaboration that the University of Nevada, Reno's First-Generation Student Center and the University of Nevada, Reno's School of Medicine have created that will ensure the success of aspiring first-generation, low-income, underrepresented medical school hopefuls.

W5. Maximizing the Impact of Social Media and Electronic Communication

Presented by: Estevan Parra Guerrero and Jasmine Ledesma-Villa

Room: Willow Glen I

This workshop will introduce the audience to best practices for utilizing social media and electronic communication to build a brand for their TRIO program and engage with their participants and campus leaders.

W6. Making Your Recruitment Innovative and Engaging - Working with the New Generation

Presented by: Marisol Patino and Channie Phanharath

Room: Willow Glen II

Recruitment is the foundation of our TRIO programs, but can be challenging at times. This workshop will focus on finding new innovative ways to recruit pre-college students. With our service populations changing, we need to be able to showcase growth along with it. Recruitment needs to be fun, engaging, and exciting!

W7. Insights on Peer Academic Coaching for and by Neurodivergent Students

Presented by: TBD

Room: Willow Glen III

Higher Education institutions have had an enormous influx of neurodivergent students seeking services in recent years with a common need for academic soft skills support. UC Berkeley's Disability - TRiO SSS is sharing insights from the past four years spent offering peer coaching in the areas of executive function and disability management, learning and memory, communication, cultivating a sense of belonging, and more with strategies informed by the neurodiversity and universal design for learning paradigms, equity-oriented pedagogy framework, and disability justice movement principles.

W8. Building P-16 Partnerships to Create Systemic Access to Education and Increase Enrollment

Presented by: Raymond Lu and Carlos Olmedo

Room: San Carlos

College access and equity programs are proven to increase access to education and to advance institutional enrollment objectives. Presenters will share how pre-college programs and partnerships initiatives support strategic enrollment at the largest Cal State University. This session will showcase how formal institutional partnerships between Cal State Fullerton and other educational institutions and community partners contribute to campus-wide strategic enrollment increases.

W1. Meet Students Online: Increase Student Engagement & Participation

Presented by: Dawnielle Janssen and Alex Pecoraro

Room: Almaden

TRIO Programs are essential in supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, but they often face challenges in maintaining high levels of student engagement and participation, particularly in an increasingly digital learning environment. Our session will explore how TRIO programs can leverage online workshops and resources, like StudentLingo and College2Success, to enhance student engagement, meet evolving learning preferences, and fulfill required services. StudentLingo provides a series of interactive online workshops, ideal for the diverse and dynamic needs of TRIO students. These workshops, available 24/7, ensure that students can engage in learning at their convenience, aligning perfectly with the "student-ready" ethos crucial for TRIO programs. These workshops are not just interactive; they're designed to foster a sense of community among online learners, incorporating active learning techniques, collaborative problem-solving, and content tailored to the unique needs of TRIO students. Join us to gain insights into effective online engagement strategies, share ideas, and network with fellow TRIO professionals. Discover how digital integration can transform your TRIO program, enhancing student engagement and success in today's digital world.

W2. Placemaking & Cultural Safety for CommUNITY Belonging

Presented by: Jasmine Marie Mageno Torres and Dr. Hannah Tabor

Room: Blossom I

Creating a sense of commUNITY on campus with intentional campus interactions for vulnerable student populations is key to empowering a sense of belongingness. Using examples from their work and research with Indigenous Pacific Islander populations and non-traditional student populations, Dr. Hannah Tabor and future Dr. JT will discuss the importance of placemaking and cultural safety along with other intentional strategies and frameworks that help to empower a sense of belonging for students.

W3. "Come As You Are & Do Your Best" - Engaging Our TRIO College Students in Difficult Times

Presented by: Kyrstie Lane and Nazan Polat

Room: Blossom II

Prior to the pandemic, many SSS programs already felt like they were struggling to engage students. COVID and other events have compounded these challenges, as students re-evaluate how (and if) they want to engage with systems of higher education. The SSS programs at CSUMB have maintained high participation and engagement through the rollercoaster of these past years by questioning our own systems and re-focusing on what it means to have a student-centered approach, best encapsulated in a simple mantra: "come as you are and do your best." In this session, SSS staff will share innovative practices to retain and engage students and staff alike, including use of numerous modalities, tech tools, proactive coaching, destigmatization of negative processes, and distinctive communications.

W4. Believe the Hype: Developing a Brand Identity that Fosters First-Generation Student Belonging and Conveys a Legacy of Student/Programmatic Success

Presented by: Noah Walls

Room: Blossom III

Whether on social media or through printed materials, your brand identity is the first interaction prospective students, your institution, and community partners have with your TRIO program. Therefore, it is imperative that TRIO programs develop a brand identity that not only fosters first-generation student belonging but also conveys a legacy of student and programmatic success to all stakeholders. Come learn how Upward Bound Classic & Math Science Programs at the University of Nevada, Reno has developed its successful brand identity that supports students feeling first-gen proud and stakeholders believing the hype behind your program.

W5. Strengthening Youth Leadership Through Personal Storytelling

Presented by: Richard Reyes and Jesus Maldonado

Room: Willow Glen I

In this session, participants will experience and understand how mastering the skill of personal storytelling can strengthen leadership qualities for all. We will have the opportunity to reflect on our stories and connect with others through narrative sharing while identifying how we can help strengthen youth leadership through this skill.

W6. Leveraging Student Staff and Social Media to Cultivate Program's Success

Presented by: Celia Stephanie Aguilar, Michelle Ly, and Sonia Valencia

Room: Willow Glen II

In this workshop, we will explore innovative strategies that demonstrate the potential of student staff as well as social media to create a thriving and successful program environment. Additionally, we will discover how to engage the audience, create meaningful connections, and foster program excellence through the collaborative efforts of student staff and the power of social media.

W7. "Did they Really Just Say That?" The Importance of Cultural Sensitivity in Building Relationships

Presented by: Sione Lavanka

Room: Willow Glen III

In order to build strong relationships with students, we must also build strong relationships with families to establish trust. This session will discuss ways to build relationships with families from diverse cultural backgrounds, and how understanding their cultures and values ultimately helps us as education champions better assist our students. Join us as we learn the importance of learning cultural customs, norms, and sensitivity.

W8. Leveraging the power of Reports & Best Practices for an accurate APR

Presented by: Gujan Seth

Room: Guadalupe

You spend so much time entering data; put that data to effective use by running reports that are analytical, defining, and accurate. Reports in your database are powerful tools that can check performance metrics and help you focus on strengths and weaknesses of your program. This session will demonstrate on which and how to run these reports effectively.

Hope you had a 'great' time submitting your APR this year. Completing the APR is likely the most stressful task for any TRIO program. Attend this session to learn 'Best Practices' and other 'Tips & Tricks' for an accurate and timely APR submission. You will learn from a technology expert who has worked with TRIO programs for over 23 years.

W9. Leading the TRIO Way: Using TRIO Philosophies to Promote Thriving in First-Generation

Professionals

Presented by: Lydia Perez.

Room: San Carlos

Some first-generation professionals seem to carry into their professional lives the same mindsets that plagued them as first-generation students. In this session, explore how TRIO philosophies used to serve first-generation participants can be applied to nurturing the thriving of first-generation professionals.

Steve Holeman Award

In 1979, the "It's Tough To Be A Director" Award was initiated to honor our most senior directors. When Steve Holeman, one of WESTOP's Founders, passed away in 1983, the award was amended to honor his legacy. The award now acknowledges the accomplishments of directors of educational equity programs who have demonstrated continuing dedication to the cause of excellence and equity, who show concern for the development of their students' potential and who demonstrate professionalism in the administration of their programs. This award is given annually at the WESTOP Conference.

"IT'S TOUGH TO BE A DIRECTOR" AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1979 Jack Lima Upward Bound Humboldt State University | 1980 Arturo Oosterveen Upward Bound UC Santa Barbara | 1981 Octavio Boubion Upward Bound Harvey Mudd College | 1982 Charlene Folsom Talent Search PACT, San Francisco |
|--|---|--|---|

STEVE HOLEMAN AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1983 Keith Hori Upward Bound UC Berkeley | 1992 LaWanda McCullon Upward Bound Mills College | 2001 Conelia Anquay Upward Bound University of Hawaii, Hilo | 2009 Lianne Richelieu-Boren College Options/Talent Search UC Davis | 2018 Sara Boquin Upward Bound Program, Barrio Logan College Institute |
| 1984 Robert Norris Upward Bound UC Los Angeles | 1993 Yoichi Rengiil TRIO Programs University of Guam | 2002 Loretta Enriquez-Najera Talent Search CSU Long Beach | 2010 Martina Granados Upward Bound CSU Fresno | 2019 Matt Benney Student Affairs Sonoma State University |
| 1985 Dr. Juan Mestas Upward Bound San Jose State | 1994 Jack Rolinger Student Support Services Phoenix College | 2003 Norris Sanders Talent Search UC Berkeley | 2011 Gustavo Ocegueda TRIO Programs Norco College | 2020 Dr. Norma Romero Upward Bound Loyola Marymount University |
| 1986 Dr. Charles Ratliff Educational Opportunity Program CSU Hayward | 1995 Irvin L. Coin Upward Bound Arizona State University | 2003 Denise Benton Upward Bound CSU San Bernardino | 2012 Michele Scott Educational Outreach Center CSU Long Beach | 2021 Dalia Hernandez Upward Bound Program CSUSB |
| 1987 Rosalie Lopez Upward Bound Imperial Valley College | 1996 Melvin Yoshimoto Student Support Services University of Hawaii, Manoa | 2004 Maria Godoy Upward Bound CSU Los Angeles | 2013 Emalyn Lapus TS & College Access Center Japanese Community Youth Council | 2022 Tomasa Mauricio Barrio Logan Barrio Logan College Institute |
| 1988 Dr. Sylvia Lopez-Romano EOP CSU Chico | 1997 Dr. Connie Baker ASPIRE / McNair San Jose State University | 2005 Susan Madrid-Simon Upward Bound Occidental College | 2014 Dr. Joy Brittain Early Outreach & Support Programs CSU Monterey Bay | |
| 1989 Janice Dirden-Cook Upward Bound University of San Francisco | 1998 Sandi Matsui TRIO Programs Windward Community College | 2006 Ron Muriera Upward Bound Japanese Community Youth Council | 2015 Leonard Woods TRIO Programs University of Hawaii, Hilo | |
| 1990 David Ferguson Upward Bound CSU Chico | 1999 Dr. Cynthia Park Pre-College Program Institute San Diego State University | 2007 Dolores Diaz Talent Search Imperial Valley College | 2016 Cesar Velasquez Upward Bound CSU Monterey Bay | |
| 1991 Mary Ann Hamann College Readiness Monterey Peninsula College | 2000 Robert Zuniga Upward Bound East Los Angeles College | 2008 Ping Chan Upward Bound UC Davis | 2017 Lydia Perez Student Support Services Mesa Community College | |

WESTOP PAST CONFERENCES

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1979 | TRIO/EOP, A Natural Partnership | Sahara Tahoe Hotel, South Lake Tahoe |
| 1980 | Access & Quality: The Educational Challenge for the 80s | Sahara Tahoe Hotel, South Lake Tahoe |
| 1981 | ***** | La Jolla Village Inn, La Jolla, CA |
| 1982 | Crisis of the 80s...a Blueprint for Survival | Red Lion Inn, Sacramento, CA |
| 1983 | Educational Fitness in the 80s...Strengthening Our Alliances | Sahara Tahoe Hotel, South Lake Tahoe |
| 1984 | ***** | Golden Sails Hotel, Long Beach, CA |
| 1985 | Realizing Equal Education Opportunities | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Oakland, CA |
| 1986 | Access & Achievement: The Future of Our Youth | Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, CA |
| 1987 | The Future: From Vision to Reality | Alexis Park Hotel, Las Vegas, NV |
| 1988 | Educational Equality: The Celebration, The Challenge, The Commitment | Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA |
| 1999 | Advancing the Cause & the Profession of Educational Equity | Holiday Inn, Sacramento, CA |
| 1990 | Equity & Excellence in Education | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Waikiki, HI |
| 1991 | From the Great Society to the New Majority: The Educational Equity Agenda | Hyatt Island Hotel, San Diego, CA |
| 1992 | New Barriers to Educational Issues & Answers | Miyako Hotel, San Francisco, CA |
| 1993 | Fresh Breath For Your Ageless Vision | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Kaanapali, HI |
| 1994 | Educational Realities in the 90s: Diversified Cultures with a Unified Purpose | Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Phoenix, AZ |
| 1995 | Three Decades of 1995-Achievement: Leaders in a Changing Society | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Long Beach, CA |
| 1996 | Making the Difference for the 21st Century: The Struggle Continues | Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV |
| 1997 | Uniting for Education, Opportunity & Action | San Francisco Airport Marriot Hotel, CA |
| 1998 | Build Yourself a Firm Foundation Before Teaching Others | Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki, HI |
| 1999 | Finding Strength Through Your Journey | Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, AZ |
| 2000 | Preparing Leaders for the 21st Century | Grant Hotel, San Diego, CA |
| 2001 | Honoring Our Legacy, Celebrating Our Future | Silver Legacy Resort & Casino, Reno, NV |
| 2002 | An Ocean of Diversity: Bringing Our Families Together | Double Tree Hotel, Monterey, CA |
| 2003 | From Palau to Phoenix: A History of Diversity, A Future of Excellence | Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Waikiki, HI |
| 2004 | Cultivating Communities of Practice | Radisson Hotel, Tucson, AZ |
| 2005 | Creating Opportunities to Achieve Dreams | Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, Hollywood, CA |
| 2006 | TRIO: A Sure Bet for Success | Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV |
| 2007 | Building Bridges Between Communities of Educators | Hyatt Regency, Burlingame, CA |
| 2008 | Pūpūkahiki I Halomua: Unite to Move Forward | Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, Kona, HI |
| 2009 | Sustainability: Fortifying Education with Access & Retention | Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, Phoenix, AZ |
| 2010 | Strengthening Our Alliances: Uniting for Educational Equity | Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, Long Beach, CA |
| 2011 | From Best Practice to Innovation: New Paradigms for Educational Access & Excellence | Rio Las Vegas Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV |
| 2012 | Advocacy: Building & Strengthening Human Capital | Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA |
| 2013 | Unity in Diversity | Waikiki Marriott, Honolulu, HI |
| 2014 | Moving Forward Empowered to Serve | Marriott Hotel, San Diego, CA |
| 2015 | Connected: Celebrating a History of Opening Access to College | Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara, CA |
| 2016 | The Power of the Past: The Force of the Future | Peppermill Hotel, Reno, NV |
| 2017 | Tides of Change: Excellence in Educational Access and Opportunity | Marriott Hotel, Monterey, CA |
| 2018 | Kaulike ka ho'ona'auao: Rejuvenating the Spirit of Educational Equity | Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, HI |
| 2019 | Rising to Transform: Investing in the Future of Educational Equity | Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AZ |
| 2020 | Educational Access & Equity Redefined | Hyatt Regency, Orange County, CA |
| 2021 | RESILIENCE, Charting the Course Forward Together | Virtual |
| 2022 | All knowledge is not taught in the same school | Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki, HI |
| 2023 | Redefining the Now, Embracing the Next | Silver Legacy, Reno, NV |
| 2024 | Nurturing Excellence. Cultivating Members. Shaping Tomorrow. | Marriott Hotel, San Jose, CA |



WESTOP AWARDS

2024 Award Recipients to be announced at WESTOP's Award Luncheon & Recognition Dinner

Advocate of Change Award

The Advocacy of Change Award recognizes the support given to WESTOP by an individual, company, or organization who shares the association's belief in educational excellence and equality.

Peggy J. Whitehead Scholarship

Mrs. Peggy J. Whitehead began her career with the U.S. Department of Education in 1965. For the following 37 years she worked tirelessly for the good of TRIO students until her retirement in 2002. To recognize and honor Peggy's commitment and dedication to TRIO Students, WESTOP created this \$1,000 scholarship to assist TRIO high school seniors with their educational goals.

Planting Seeds in Equity & Care

The Planting Seeds in Equity & Care Award acknowledges a staff member whose commitment, advocacy, perseverance, and contributions go "above and beyond" what is expected for the holistic well-being of their students and staff, and success of their respective program(s).

Steve Holeman Award

The Steve Holeman Award acknowledges the accomplishments of directors of educational equity programs who have demonstrated continuing dedication to the cause of excellence and equity, who show concern for the development of their students' potential and who demonstrate professionalism in the administration of their programs.

WESTOP Founders Award

Every year, professionals convene at the annual WESTOP conference to participate in professional development activities that are designed to propel conference attendees to the next level as we serve participants enrolled in college access and success programs. The WESTOP Founder's Scholarship selects one college student from applicants who exemplifies participation, tenacity and dedication throughout their participation in a TRIO/Equity programs.

WESTOP TRIO Achiever Award

WESTOP TRIO Achievers Award The WESTOP TRIO Achievers Award recognizes the accomplishments of educational equity participants who have completed their baccalaureate degree, entered professional fields, and whose community or professional activities have served their fellow human beings and are focused on the improvement of society.

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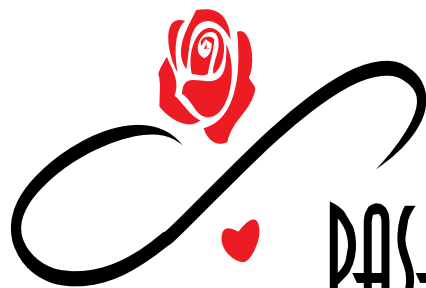


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Marisol Patino
Arlett Perez
Ana Prado

ALUMNI

Maricela Juarez
Andrea Raya
Cristian Saavedra

AWARDS

Carina Alvarado
Katherin Razo-Gomez

ENTERTAINMENT

Kassandra M Colwell
Xelha B Puc

EVALUATIONS

Carlos Olmedo
Michele Scott

ELECTIONS

Wendy Adams

HOSPITALITY

Marisol Patino
Channie Phanharath
Sureima Santillan

MODERATORS

Gina Gutierrez
Arleen Gonzalez
Jasmine Torres
Vivian Pelayo

EXHIBITS

Oswaldo Lopez Jr.
Angelica Gebhardt

NEW MEMBERS PRE-CONFERENCE

Wendy Adams
Maricela Juarez
Maria Sandra Jimenez
Olga Nuñez
Gema Quiroz-Torres
Jasmine Torres

Keyanna Hatcher

REGISTRATION

Brenda Aguilar
Lia Mauga

PROGRAM

Angela Dominguez
Amel Khan

SILENT AUCTION

Xochitl Garcia
Martina Granados
Estevan Parra

TECHNOLOGY

Amel Khan

VOLUNTEERS

Olga Nuñez
Carolina Sordia

WORKSHOPS

Angelica Gebhardt
Laura Shepard

An aerial photograph of the Portland, Oregon skyline at sunset. The city's skyscrapers are silhouetted against a sky of orange, pink, and blue. The Willamette River flows through the city, with a large steel truss bridge in the foreground. A marina with many boats is visible on the left side of the river.

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU IN**
PORTLAND, OR

WESTOP 2025
MARCH 2 - 6, 2025