



CVHEC Annual

HIGHER EDUCATION Summit

Student Success through Equity and Inclusion –
Thriving in the Central Valley



SPONSORED BY



OCTOBER 20, 2023

Valdez Hall, Fresno Convention Center

Summit WELCOME



Greeting Colleagues and Friends of CVHEC,

Welcome to our 2023 annual summit, themed, “Student Success through Equity and Inclusion — Thriving in the Central Valley.” This year’s summit spotlights the regional efforts clearing the path to certificate and degree completion for our students.

We’re thrilled to have our own Dr. Sonya Christian, newly appointed Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, kicking off the day. Chancellor Christian understands the needs and challenges of colleges and universities in rural areas of California, like ours, and the students and communities we serve.

Following Chancellor Christian, Dr. Hans Johnson, of the Public Policy Institute of California, will share some data and findings about the Central Valley landscape.

Our panel, “Central Valley Transfer Model: The Breakthrough,” highlights processes by CC and CSU/UC faculty that provide clear and easily accessible transfer pathways for students.

The morning concludes with a panel on “Different Approaches to Equitable Dual Enrollment” including the innovative Math Bridge Project intervention for targeted high school students.

After lunch, “Real Colleges Serving Real Needs” explores basic needs, including how CVHEC is in the process of creating its Zero Textbook Costs/Open Educational Resources Task Force.

We will close with our favorite panel, Central Valley college students sharing their experiences related to this work.

Thank you for joining us today, we trust you will find value in our program.

Benjamin T. Duran, Ed.D.
Executive Director, CVHEC

Summit AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00am	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15am	Welcome on behalf of CVHEC Board of Directors Kristin Clark, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District Introductions and Review of Agenda Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, CVHEC
9:15 – 10:00am	Keynote Message Sonya Christian, Chancellor, California Community Colleges <i>Introduction by Tom Burke, Interim Chancellor, Kern Community College District</i>
10:05 – 10:35am	The Central Valley Landscape: Pathways to and through college in the San Joaquin Valley Hans Johnson, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California <i>Introduction by Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President, California State University, Fresno</i>
10:40 – 11:20am	Central Valley Transfer Model: The Breakthrough Facilitated by Stan Carrizosa, Regional Coordinator, CVHEC <i>Introduction by André Stephens, President, Fresno Pacific University</i>
11:25 – 12:05pm	Different Approaches to Equitable Dual Enrollment Facilitated by Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, CVHEC <i>Introduction by Lisa Aguilera-Lawrenson, Superintendent/President, San Joaquin Delta College</i>
12:10pm	Lunch Break
12:40 – 1:10pm	Federal Legislative Update Jim Costa, 16th Congressional District Representative, U.S. House of Representatives <i>Introduction by Kristin Clark, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District</i>
1:15 – 1:55pm	Real Colleges Serving Real Needs Facilitated by James Preston, President, West Hills College Lemoore <i>Introduction by Angel Reyna, President, Madera Community College</i>
2:00 – 2:45pm	What Does this Mean for Students? Facilitated by Carole Goldsmith, Chancellor, State Center Community College District <i>Introduction by Claudia Habib, President, Porterville College</i>
2:50 – 3:00pm	Where Do We Go From Here? Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, CVHEC
3:00pm	Adjourn – Drive Safely!

Our Mission

SPEAKING IN
A SINGLE
VOICE FOR
**Higher
Education**

VALLEY
IN CONSORTIUM



9:00 – 9:15am

Welcome on behalf of CVHEC Board of Directors

Kristin Clark, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, CVHEC

KRISTIN CLARK

CHANCELLOR, WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Dr. Clark has 30 years of administrative experience in higher education and currently serves as the Chancellor of the West Hills Community College District. Prior to her appointment in 2021, she served for over six years as the President of West Hills College Lemoore. Under her leadership, the college implemented a college-wide case management system, doubled its endowment, became a global leader in the use of Open Educational Resources, and received recognition as an Aspen Prize for Top 100 Community College recipient twice and the Achieving the Dream's Leader College and Leader College of Distinction awards. Kristin currently serves as the Board Chair of CVHEC, the co-chair of the California Community College CEO Funding Policy Taskforce, and participates on several boards including the Community College Facility Coalition and the California Health Sciences University.

BENJAMIN T. DURAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CVHEC



Dr. Benjamin T. Duran is a highly respected higher education leader, teacher and former president of Merced Community College in California. He retired as superintendent/president of the Merced Community College District in 2012 after serving 22 years in the district with the last 14 years as the CEO. Dr. Duran is now Executive Director of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC), an organization that brings together 29, soon 30, community college, independent, and university CEOs to collaborate on higher education issues in the Central Valley of California.

Notes

9:15 – 10:00am

Keynote Message

Sonya Christian, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Introduction by Tom Burke, Interim Chancellor, Kern Community College District

SONYA CHRISTIAN

CHANCELLOR, CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Dr. Sonya Christian recently served as the sixth Chancellor of the Kern Community College District (Kern district). A position she's held since July 2021. Christian began her three-decade career locally within Kern district as a mathematics faculty, a Division Chair, and Dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health and Math at Bakersfield College. From 2013 to 2021 she served as the 10th President of Bakersfield College – one of the colleges overseen by Kern district. Throughout her career Dr. Christian has been committed to advancing work through distributed leadership and collaborative communities of learning, and to promoting the value of equity in student learning, access, success and economic mobility.

TOM BURKE

INTERIM CHANCELLOR, KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Thomas J. Burke currently serves as the interim Chancellor of the Kern Community College District. He has been involved in the California Community College system for 24 years. In November, 2022 the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) awarded Tom its Achievement of Excellence Award for his contributions to ACBO and the State Community College System. Prior to KCCD, Tom worked as a manager of Regulatory and Governmental Affairs and in Financial Planning for Contel and as a Financial Analyst for the Getty Oil Company. He earned his Master's in Business Administration at CSUB in 1986 and his bachelor's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance, at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo in 1981.

Notes

10:05 – 10:35am

The Central Valley Landscape: Pathways to and through college in the San Joaquin Valley

Hans Johnson, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

Introduction by Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President, California State University, Fresno

SAÚL JIMÉNEZ-SANDOVAL

PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO



Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval serves as the ninth President of Fresno State, where he held previous appointments as Provost and Dean of Arts and Humanities. Prior to administration, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval taught at Fresno State for almost 15 years in his areas of expertise: Spanish and Portuguese poetry. As a national leader in higher education, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval has served on the AASCU Board of Directors and chaired the AASCU Hispanic Affinity group. He has served on the MLI Executive Steering committee, USDA HACU Leadership Group, and the LEAD CA Executive Board. In his current role as President, he remains connected to students as a MSI Aspiring Leaders Presidential Mentor. Within the California State University system, he has chaired both CSU-Water and the CSU BioTech committees, and holds appointments on the CSU Technology Steering Committee, CSU Financial Sustainability Workgroup and the CSU Black Excellence/Student Success Working Group. Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval received dual B.A.s (cum laude), in History and in Spanish, from the University of California, Irvine. His M.A. and Ph.D. are in Spanish literature, also from UC Irvine.

HANS JOHNSON

SENIOR FELLOW, PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA



Hans Johnson is a senior fellow at the PPIC Higher Education Center. His research focuses on improving college access and completion. He frequently presents his work to policymakers and higher education officials, and he serves as a technical advisor to many organizations seeking to improve college graduation rates, address workforce needs, and engage in long-term capacity planning. His other areas of expertise include international and domestic migration, housing in California, and population projections. Previously, he served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, he worked as a demographer at the California Research Bureau and at the California Department of Finance. He holds a PhD in demography and a master's degree in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Notes

10:40 – 11:20 AM

Central Valley Transfer Model: The Breakthrough

Facilitated by Stan Carrizosa, Regional Coordinator, CVHEC

Introduction by André Stephens, President, Fresno Pacific University

ANDRÉ STEPHENS

PRESIDENT, FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



Dr. André Stephens has 30 years of experience in Christian higher education in California, most recently as vice president for student development at Biola University, a post to which he was appointed in 2016. Serving in this cabinet-level role, he led a team that provided authentic, meaningful learning experiences to foster the Christian character of students. Stephens completed his B.A. in Communication with a public relations emphasis from Biola, his M.A. in Speech Communication with an emphasis in intercultural/interpersonal communication from California State University at Fullerton and his Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in higher education administration/student affairs from Claremont Graduate University.

STAN CARRIZOSA

REGIONAL COORDINATOR, CVHEC



Stan Carrizosa Sr., former superintendent/president of the College of the Sequoias, is CVHEC's southern regional coordinator. Stan is a first-generation college student in his family and a native of the Central Valley who charted a path to success through our California Community College system after earning his undergraduate degree at California State University, Northridge and his MA (Education Administration) at Fresno Pacific. Following a successful 28-year career in K-12 education including superintendent of both small and large districts, the capstone of Stan's career in public education came when he was selected to serve as COS superintendent/president. Over his seven-year tenure, he provided leadership during a period when the college's accreditation was compromised and significant sanctions and fiscal insolvency needed to be addressed.

JAMES ZIMMERMAN

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST FOR TRANSFER INITIATIVES, UC MERCED



James currently serves as the Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for Transfer Initiatives. In his wide-ranging academic career as both faculty member and administrator, James has been recognized as a leader who can build consensus, motivate, and operationalize campus-wide plans. He enjoys the challenge of aligning constituents toward the essential institutional goals of developing, managing, and resourcing exceptional and innovative undergraduate learning environments that benefit diverse student populations.

TOM BURKE

INTERIM CHANCELLOR, KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Thomas J. Burke currently serves as the interim Chancellor of the Kern Community College District. He has been involved in the California Community College system for 24 years. In November, 2022 the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) awarded Tom its Achievement of Excellence Award for his contributions to ACBO and the State Community College System. Prior to KCCD, Tom worked as a manager of Regulatory and Governmental Affairs and in Financial Planning for Contel and as a Financial Analyst for the Getty Oil Company. He earned his Master’s in Business Administration at CSUB in 1986 and his bachelor’s in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance, at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo in 1981.

Notes

11:25 – 12:05pm

Different Approaches to Equitable Dual Enrollment

Facilitated by Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, CVHEC

*Introduction by Lisa Aguilera-Lawrenson, Superintendent/President,
San Joaquin Delta College*

LISA AGUILERA-LAWRENSON

SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT, SAN JOAQUIN DELTA COLLEGE



Dr. Lisa Aguilera Lawrenson has 28 years of experience as a community college professor, administrator, and social justice educator/trainer in California and Washington. Her dissertation focused on the experiences of Hispanic students in developmental English in community colleges. In addition to serving as an English/Multicultural Humanities Professor, Dr. Aguilera Lawrenson has served as the Dean of Humanities at American River College (ARC), the Associate Vice President of Instruction at ARC, the Interim Vice President of Instruction at Cosumnes River College, the Interim Vice President of Student Services at ARC, the Vice President of Instruction at ARC, and most recently as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction at San Joaquin Delta College where she was hired in 2020.

BENJAMIN T. DURAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CVHEC



Dr. Benjamin T. Duran is a highly respected higher education leader, teacher and former president of Merced Community College in California. He retired as superintendent/president of the Merced Community College District in 2012 after serving 22 years in the district with the last 14 years as the CEO. Dr. Duran is now Executive Director of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC), an organization that brings together 29, soon 30, community college, independent, and university CEOs to collaborate on higher education issues in the Central Valley of California.

LYNN CEVALLOS

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, COLLEGE BRIDGE



Dr. Lynn Cevallos has nearly 30 years of experience creating innovations to improve math outcomes at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Her work began at the Community College, focused on the bottleneck of remedial mathematics education. From there, she expanded her focus to include high school, followed by middle school, to backwards map the remediation dilemma. Seeking a systemic solution, her work expanded from teaching to leadership roles in government, higher education, K-12, nonprofits, and corporations. Her desire for systemic change led her to UCLA where she earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership studying intersegmental partnerships designed to improve college success by addressing barriers to college completion; math remediation was a major focus. At College Bridge she leads intersegmental research/practice initiatives to improve college completion, specifically in STEM majors, for low-income, minority, and rural students. Her work has successfully closed equity and achievement gaps in mathematics for thousands of students.

VIVIE SINOU

**DEAN OF REGIONAL EDUCATION AND DISTANCE LEARNING,
SAN JOAQUIN DELTA COLLEGE**



Vivie Sinou is Dean of Regional & Distance Education at San Joaquin Delta College. She is responsible for the strategic planning and vision of Distance Education, Dual Enrollment, and Early College programs across over thirty high schools in the Central Valley. She also leads, manages and supports Delta's Professional Development Center, providing opportunities for professional growth to faculty, managers and staff. Vivie Sinou was the recipient of the 2002 Technology Leadership Award from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. She also received the League Innovator of the Year Award for Foothill De Anza Community College District (2002).

RICHARD AGUILAR III

DIRECTOR OF DUAL ENROLLMENT/EARLY COLLEGE, WEST HILLS COLLEGE COALINGA



Richard Aguilar III is the Director of Special Grants – Dual Enrollment/Early College for West Hills College Coalinga. In his position, he will be working with local high schools and middle schools to promote higher education, further develop dual enrollment and early college pathways at partnering high schools, and foster support systems towards student success. Richard has been with West Hills Community College District for 7 years, and formerly served as the Coordinator of Special Grants – Dual Enrollment for West Hills College Coalinga and Human Resources Analyst at the District Office. Richard holds a Master of Public Administration Degree with a Specialization in Organizational Leadership from National University.

DARIO DIAZ

PRINCIPAL, MCFARLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Mr. Dario Diaz, currently serves as the Principal of McFarland High School Early College and has been a cornerstone of the McFarland community for an impressive 23 years, serving not only as a dedicated teacher and administrator but also as an innovator in the realm of education. Under his visionary leadership, the institution shifted its focus to foster hands-on learning with real-world applications. They have consistently claimed the title of Early College enrollment champions in Kern County, showcasing their commitment to expanding educational horizons. A testament to their dedication, out of a graduating class of approximately 200 students, an astounding 60 are projected to graduate with their Associate of Arts (AA) degrees. Furthermore, an impressive 187 students have accumulated a minimum of 30 college units, exemplifying the far-reaching impact of Mr. Diaz's leadership and the enduring legacy he has created within the McFarland educational community.

Our Purpose

INCREASING DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE Attainment Rates



12:40 – 1:10pm

Federal Legislative Update

Jim Costa, 16th Congressional District Representative,
U.S. House of Representatives

Introduction by Kristin Clark, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

KRISTIN CLARK

CHANCELLOR, WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Dr. Clark has 30 years of administrative experience in higher education and currently serves as the Chancellor of the West Hills Community College District. Prior to her appointment in 2021, she served for over six years as the President of West Hills College Lemoore. Under her leadership, the college implemented a college-wide case management system, doubled its endowment, became a global leader in the use of Open Educational Resources, and received recognition as an Aspen Prize for Top 100 Community College recipient twice and the Achieving the Dream's Leader College and Leader College of Distinction awards. Kristin currently serves as the Board Chair of CVHEC, the co-chair of the California Community College CEO Funding Policy Taskforce, and participates on several boards including the Community College Facility Coalition and the California Health Sciences University.

JIM COSTA

16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Costa represents California's 16th Congressional District. He has served the San Joaquin Valley in the U.S. House of Representatives since January of 2005. Raised on a dairy farm in Fresno's Kearney Park area, Congressman Costa is a third-generation family farmer. As a Member of Congress, Costa has applied his farming background to fighting for Valley water, agriculture, and the economy.

A product of Fresno County schools, Costa is a graduate of San Joaquin Memorial High School and has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from California State University, Fresno. Before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Costa served for 24 years in the California State Legislature.

Notes

1:15 – 1:55pm

Real Colleges Serving Real Needs

Facilitated by James Preston, President, West Hills College Lemoore
Introduction by Kristin Clark, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

ÁNGEL REYNA

PRESIDENT, MADERA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Ángel Reyna officially took over as president of Madera and Oakhurst College Centers (now Madera Community College) on May 20, 2019, a little bit of history came with it, as he is the first on-campus president in school history. Dr. Reyna came to the Central Valley from Renton (WA) Technical College, where he served as Vice President of Instruction since December of 2015. Prior to that, he served as Dean of Workforce Education at Walla Walla Community College and Director for Workforce Education, and ESL adjunct instructor at Yakima Valley Community College. Dr. Reyna served as mayor of the City of Mabton, Washington from 2010- 2013 and a city council member from 2006-2009. President Reyna completed his doctorate in organizational leadership at Northeastern University. He previously earned his M.A. in Educational Administration and B.A. in History and Education from Washington State University.

JAMES PRESTON

PRESIDENT, WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE



James Preston has 29 years of experience in education including 12 years in administrative roles and 17 years of teaching experience. Since 2022 he has proudly served as the college president at West Hills College Lemoore which has been a leader in Open Educational Resources, innovative professional development and program design, and student support that emphasizes inclusive excellence. President Preston currently serves as the CEO representative for the Central Valley on the Statewide Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce.

ROBERT PIMENTEL

PRESIDENT, FRESNO CITY COLLEGE



Dr. Pimentel is a product of the community college system, he earned his Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from West Hills College Coalinga, a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Fresno State, a Master's of Social Work from Bakersfield State, and a doctorate in higher educational leadership from Fresno State. Dr. Pimentel is the President of Fresno City College, where he focuses his efforts on improving the lives of students from the most marginalized communities. His work focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion and data-informed campus improvements. Dr. Pimentel has over 10 years of experience working with dual enrollment students, early college/ middle college high schools, working with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students and working with men of color.

2:00 – 2:45pm

What Does this Mean for Students?

Facilitated by Carole Goldsmith, Chancellor, State Center Community College District

Introduction by Claudia Habib, President, Porterville College

CLAUDIA HABIB

PRESIDENT, PORTERVILLE COLLEGE



Dr. Claudia Habib has been the president of Porterville College since July 2019. She holds two degrees from Fresno State: a bachelor's degree in Interior Design and an Ed.D. in education and leadership. Additionally, she has studied at National University where she earned a master's degree in instructional technology. Before coming to Porterville College in 2019, she served as the vice president of Madera and Oakhurst Community College Centers in Madera.

CAROLE GOLDSMITH

CHANCELLOR, STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Dr. Goldsmith is the newest Chancellor of State Center Community College District and previously served as President of Fresno City College from August 2016 to December 2021. Prior to joining SCCCDC, Dr. Goldsmith served as President of West Hills College Coalinga and held the office of Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Workforce Development during her 13-year tenure with West Hills Community College District in rural West Fresno County. Dr. Goldsmith has lived in Fresno County for nearly four decades and earned a bachelor's degree in history from CSU, Fresno, a master's degree in educational administration from National University, and a doctorate in higher education leadership from the joint doctorate program at CSU, Fresno and UC Davis.



HAILEE GUERRA

OER STUDENT, WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE TO CSU FRESNO



ALONDRA VELOZ

OER STUDENT, FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Our Reason

DELIVERING
EQUITY AND
INCLUSION
FOR OVER
250,000
Students

