



CENTRAL VALLEY
**HIGHER
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[NEWS RELEASE](#)

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Valley's higher ed CEOs to convene at CVHEC Summit 2025

Complete College America will provide national data perspective; topics announced

(MARCH 18, 2025) – As educators across the nation face an urgency to re-imagine higher education to meet the needs of today's students and society, the [Central Valley Higher Education Consortium Summit 2025](#) this spring in Fresno is shaping up with topics that present voices from policy makers and practitioners nationally, statewide and from throughout the Central Valley's 10-county region.

With the theme “**Navigating Higher Education in a New Era: The Central Valley Way,**” [registration](#) is now open for the CVHEC summit set for Friday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel](#). The event is free, courtesy of event sponsor [College Futures Foundation](#), and open to the higher education community who register. Breakfast and lunch is included.

The CVHEC 2025 Summit will bring together chancellors, presidents and campus directors of 28 Central Valley institutions of higher education -- who make up the [CVHEC Board of Directors](#) – with other educators and policy makers including elected officials who develop legislation that affect the region. Various CVHEC board members will moderate the panels that are planned.

[Dr. Brandon Protas](#), assistant vice president for Alliance Engagement at [Complete College America](#), will be a panelist on the “The Central Valley Landscape: Honing in on the Data” panel, announced [Dr. Benjamín Durán](#), CVHEC executive director.

CCA is a national alliance of higher education institutions and organizations including CVHEC in California. Duran represents CVHEC as an alliance lead responsible for providing oversight and coordination for local initiatives as well as CCA-sponsored projects. In November, Duran led a CVHEC delegation to CCA's national conference in Indianapolis. He said the CVHEC summit provides a regional and state version of CCA's national gathering.

“The CVHEC annual summit always draws interest from our region's higher education community, but this year brings a difference sense of urgency as we learned at the Complete College American national conference last fall,” said Duran, president-emeritus of Merced College, referring to the [national conference's keynote address](#).

Topics for the CVHEC summit to date include an overview of consortium efforts such as the [Central Valley Transfer Project](#); the [Master's Upskilling Project](#), [dual enrollment initiatives](#); and math alignment measures such as the [CVHEC Math Task Force](#) and the [Central Valley Math Bridge Program](#) with [College Bridge](#).

Also featured will be a “Legislative Update” with federal legislators providing the latest about higher education laws; a student panel “What Does this Mean for Students?”; and a panel with the state's four higher education segments. CVHEC's Welcoming & Networking Reception will be the day before the summit, Thursday, May 8, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the convention center's Valdez Hall Breezeway, to provide an opportunity to connect with other attendees and the CVHEC Board of Directors in an informal relaxed setting. (*[See the full press release online](#)*).

- **EVENT QUESTIONS:** Ángel Ramírez, operations and finance manager at CVHECinfo@mail.fresnostate.edu or [559.278.0576](tel:559.278.0576).
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