

75TH ANNUAL
CA LULAC CONVENTION



Empowering & Building Strong Latino(a) Communities

APRIL 26–28, 2024

Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach
Oxnard, California



The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), established in 1929, is the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer-based organization that empowers Hispanic Americans and builds strong Latino communities. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 1,000 councils around the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC's programs, services and advocacy address the most important issues for Latinos, meeting critical needs of today and the future. Founded in response to the denial of basic civil and human rights for Latinos, LULAC now empowers its members to continue advocating for their rights and creating opportunities to improve their communities.

OUR MISSION

To advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of the Latino population of the United States.

OUR COUNCILS

California LULAC consists of councils across the state from San Diego to Sacramento. Our council structure empowers high school-age students to collegiate, young adults to create councils and partner with adult councils to impact their communities.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Latino Communities • Veterans • Elderly • Youth • Women • Young Adults



WELCOME TO THE 75TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA LULAC CONVENTION

Letter from the California LULAC State Director

Dear LULAC members, Elected Officials and Community Members:

Welcome to our 75th Annual CA LULAC Convention taking place in Oxnard, CA in Ventura County. I would like to thank our convention committee along with the host LULAC Council #3147 and all the local councils located in CA LULAC District 17 for all your dedication and commitment to putting together this year's convention. Thank you to our speakers, workshop presenters, sponsors and supporters who have given their time and resources to support the mission of the California League of United Latin American Citizens.

I am excited to share with you the details of this year's convention, centered around the theme of Empowering and Building Strong Latino(a) Communities. As we gather, it is important to recognize the struggles that Latino(a) communities across California are currently facing. Despite the progress that has been made, these communities still encounter obstacles such as limited access to affordable housing, quality education, good-paying jobs, and discrimination based on race, gender, or sexual orientation, environmental racism.

The workshops organized by CA LULAC have been carefully designed to address these challenges and empower attendees to become change-makers in their communities. Our primary goals are to inform, inspire, and empower each one of you to make a positive impact. As you step into leadership roles, it is crucial to prioritize the growth, well-being, and empowerment of those around you. Together, we must provide the support of the next generation of leaders who will need to face the challenges of the future.

In creating the leaders of tomorrow, we also need to recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of our current leaders and also those of the past who paved the way for us today. At our Awards Dinner Gala, we will have the special privilege of recognizing five families who, through a class-action lawsuit in 1946, challenged the constitutionality of separate schools for Mexican American students in Southern California. Their efforts eventually led to the end of public school segregation across the state..

I encourage you to fully engage with the inspiring speakers and workshop presenters throughout the convention. Let their words and experiences resonate with you as you embrace our theme of Empowering and Building Strong Latino(a) Communities. Remember the powerful words of Cesar Chavez: "You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to making a difference. Let us come together to create positive change in our communities.



In Solidarity,

Jacob Sandoval

California LULAC State Director



WELCOME TO THE 75TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA LULAC CONVENTION

Letter from the President, Oxnard Council 3147

Dear LULAC Members, Community Leaders, and Guests,

It is with gratitude and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to each of you to the 75th Annual CA LULAC Convention, hosted right here in the wonderful city of Oxnard. As the President of LULAC Council #3147, I am thankful to our dedicated council members, California LULAC board members, esteemed committee members, and the generosity of our sponsors for their invaluable contributions in bringing this significant event to fruition.

This convention marks a momentous occasion for our beloved city of Oxnard, as we have the distinct honor of hosting the statewide gathering of LULAC members and supporters. It stands as a testament of our dedication to our mission and fostering positive change within our communities.

Diversity lies at the heart of our convention, and we are proud to embrace the various voices and perspectives that make up our LULAC family. From seasoned leaders to bright-eyed youth and young adults, each one of us plays an important role in shaping the future of our organization and our communities. Together, we will continue to grow as leaders, expand the reach of our organization, and empowering individuals of all ages to make a difference.

As we come together throughout the convention, I invite you to take advantage of the educational workshops, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities available to you.

Our workshops are designed to bring you knowledge, skills, and inspire a positive change to address the pressing issues facing our communities.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the convention experience and find it both enriching and inspiring.

Let's take this chance to connect, work together, and carve a path towards a more promising future for Latino(a) communities throughout California and beyond.



Best regards,

Alex Mireles

President Oxnard Council 3147



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OUR BOARD AND CONVENTION COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA LULAC STATE BOARD MEMBERS



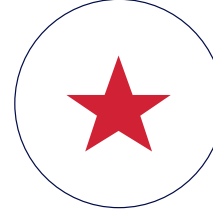
Jacob Sandoval
State Director



Alyssa Mireles
Deputy State Director



Jose Barrera
Immediate Past State Director



Elizabeth Zepeda
State Treasurer



Miriam Aguilar Escobar
Deputy Director for Women



Isabella Castro
Deputy State Director for Young Adults



Jaime Sonne-Diddi
Deputy State Director for Youth



Arturo Torres
Deputy State Director for Seniors



Christian Contreras
Legal Advisor



Tony Flores
District 1 Director



Anthony Noriega
District 5 Director



Angel Galvez
District 11 Director



Aidee Farias
District 12 Director



Dave Rodriguez
Past LULAC National Vice President



Veronica Vasquez
Director of Strategic Development and Operations

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE



Jose Ayon



Danny Carrillo
President, LULAC San Buenaventura Council #3308, CA LULAC Chair for Veteran & Military



Leonard Gonzales
Vice-Chair, LULAC National Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs



Ricky Pal



Anthony Noriega
District 5 Director

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE



Miriam Aguilar Escobar
Deputy Director for Women



Yvonne Gonzalez-Duncan
President, Anaheim LULAC Council 2848



Nancy Mireles
Member, Oxnard LULAC Council 3147



Olga Valle
Member, San Diego LULAC Council #3198

YOUTH COMMITTEE



Angel Arellano
LULAC Youth Vice President of the Far West



Shelia Cázares
President, LULAC Council #2102



Crystal Era
Member, LULAC Council #2102



Alonda Lopez
Fundraising Chair, LULAC Council #2102



Elizabeth Ramirez
Vice President, LULAC Council #2102



Jaime Sonne-Diddi
CA LULAC Deputy State Director for Youth



Xaire Vargas
Sergeant of Arms, LULAC Council #2102



Andrea Zamora
President, LULAC Council #3026

CONVENTION COMMITTEE



Sebastian Banales
Member, Oxnard LULAC Council 3147



Nathan Castillo
Member, Oxnard LULAC Council 3147



Jose Barrera
Immediate Past State Director



Isabella Castro
Deputy State Director for Young Adults



Alyssa Mireles
Deputy State Director



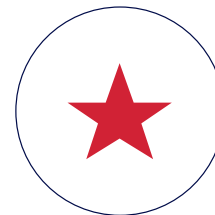
Alex Mireles
President Oxnard Council 3147



Dave Rodriguez
Past LULAC National Vice President



Jacob Sandoval
State Director



Elizabeth Zepeda
State Treasurer



VETERAN'S AND MILITARY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY | APRIL 26, 2024

There will be special recognition for veterans' organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), the American Legion (AL), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), County Veteran Services Officers (CVSO), and numerous local veteran groups. In appreciation of their service, they will be honored with lunch, medallions, and certificates. Workshops will delve into crucial subjects

PROGRAM

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Supervisor Vianey Lopez

District 5, Ventura County

OPENING REMARKS

Jacob Sandoval

California LULAC State Director

COLOR GUARD

Hueneme High School JROTC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Danny Carrillo

*President, LULAC San Buenaventura
Council #3308
CA LULAC Chair for Veteran & Military*

PRAYER

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS

LUNCH

GUEST SPEAKER

Roman Palomares

*Chair, National LULAC
Veterans and Military Affairs
National LULAC Chief of Staff*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Christopher Diaz

*Chief of Staff
Secretary of the Navy*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS, MEDALLIONS, AND CERTIFICATES

GROUP PHOTO

CLOSING REMARKS

NETWORKING HOUR



VETERAN'S AND MILITARY LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKERS



Roman Palomares
is Chairman of the National LULAC Military and Veterans Affairs and Chief of Staff to National LULAC President

Chief of Staff and the LULAC Chairman of Military and Veteran Affairs who values dedication, service, and excellence. As a Vietnam Era veteran and retired Federal Executive, Roman brings unique perspectives gained from his military and federal executive experience to the LULAC organization, empowering members to unleash their untapped potential as leaders. Roman learned the value of dedication at an early age growing up on the south side of San Antonio, as the fifth of nine children living in a low-income neighborhood. Roman's dedication, hard work, and determination to avoid a life of poverty and mediocrity inspired him to earn a Washington Fellowship which led to earning a master's degree in public administration and an accomplished Federal

Executive career. Roman's career has been a model of service recognized with awards and leadership positions. Earning several awards for his superior Federal Executive career has proved this attitude and consistent mission of excellence. Roman knows that excellence is a journey, not simply a destination. After spending forty years with the three Federal Government agencies, this perspective, inspired him to start his own management consultant firm that provides technical assistance to local government entities throughout the United States. He teaches, develops, inspires, and mentors hundreds of local government and housing board members that have responsibility of overseeing local government agencies across the United States. He brings this same dedication to his LULAC work with LULAC Officers as they strive to empower their organizational teams to achieve greater success. He also sits on the boards of several foundations and national military support organizations and is heavily involved with military veterans.



Christopher Díaz
is Deputy Chief of Staff and White House Liaison at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a U.S. Navy Veteran

During his service in the U.S. Navy from 2007 to 2012 as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate and then as a Fleet Marine Corps Hospital Corpsman, he saw duty aboard the USS Harry S. Truman and, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, deployed with the 6th Marines to Marjah in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After leaving the Navy, Díaz graduated from Drexel University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Psychology. At Drexel, he joined other veterans to revitalize the school's veterans' group, gaining

national recognition from Student Veterans of America (SVA). Additionally, Díaz was the recipient of the Pat Tillman Scholarship, awarded to veterans and veteran family members with a commitment to strengthening communities at home and around the world. He was the founder and former executive director of the veteran-led Action Tank – a Philadelphia-based nonprofit leveraging veterans' experience, leadership, and relationships with service-minded citizens to tackle challenges like the opioid crisis, gun violence, and food insecurity. A native New Yorker, Díaz lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Jennifer; his son, Rain; and his dog, Upa.



UNITY IN DIVERSITY: WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY | APRIL 26TH, 2024 | 6:30 PM
COASTAL I

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Fiona Ma
is California's 34th State Treasurer

She was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history and reelected on November 8, 2022. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is poised to become the world's fourth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.



FIONA MA, CPA
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

April 26, 2024

Dear Friends,

As the 34th Treasurer of the State of California, it is my pleasure to join you in celebrating the 75th Convention for the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Founded in 1929, LULAC is the oldest Latino organization in the United States that is dedicated to empowering its members to advocate for equal opportunities for all Hispanic people and improving their communities. I commend LULAC for their enduring efforts to support education, civil rights, and environmental justice as it makes positive impacts in communities across California.

LULAC Councils in California have poured into their communities by giving out over \$100,000 in high school scholarships, organizing food distributions, health fairs, voter registration drives and been advocates on a variety of different issues at the local and state level.

Additionally, LULAC's work with policymakers to improve the economic conditions, educational attainments, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of the Latino population of the U.S. is truly admirable.

I extend my sincere best wishes for a successful 75th convention and many more years of service.

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma".

FIONA MA, CPA
California State Treasurer





YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS EMPOWERMENT BREAKFAST

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 7:30 AM

TIDES BALLROOM

PROGRAM

LULAC PRAYER

Sheila Cázares

President, LULAC Council #2102

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Angel Arellano

LULAC Youth Vice President of the Far West

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Valerie Romo

Member, LULAC Council #2081

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Matthew Vestuto

Barbareño / Ventureño, Band of Mission Indians

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jose Barrera

LULAC National Vice President for the Far West

Dr. Richard Yao

President, California State University Channel Islands

Michaela Perez

Policy Advisor and Community Organizer

CLOSING REMARKS

Jaime Sonne-Diddi

California LULAC Deputy State Director for Youth

Andrea Zamora

President, LULAC Council #3026

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS EMPOWERMENT BREAKFAST

GUEST SPEAKERS



Jose Barrera
*LULAC National Vice
President for the Far
West*

Jose “JB” Barrera, is the National Vice President of LULAC for the Far West Region. JB is an Oxnard native and first-generation graduate from Oxnard High School, Ventura College where he studied before finishing his bachelor’s at UC Davis, majoring in Political Science and Spanish. JB is a proud LULAC member having started with LULAC in high school and soon after earning the distinction as the Youngest California

LULAC State Director and then Youngest LULAC National Vice President. JB’s status as a DACA Recipient/Dreamer from Michoacán, Mexico has played an important role in his passion for serving his community and for working in the space of policy. JB has passed state legislation and has worked to get Latinos elected into public office. With his background in organizing, he utilizes his expertise to promote greater Latino representation across various industries. Despite his state and national prominence, JB remains deeply rooted in his local community. He actively participates in local Ventura County organizations and serves as an advisor to California State University Channel Islands.



Dr. Richard Yao
*President, California
State University Channel
Islands*

Dr. Richard Yao, a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. graduate from Fielding Graduate University, has extensive experience in academia and mental health. Previously based in Las Vegas for 23 years, he contributed significantly to higher education and mental health initiatives.

In his clinical career, Dr. Yao worked with individuals with mental illness and transition-aged youth from the foster care system. He later specialized in forensic psychological assessments, focusing on juvenile certification evaluations, parental capacity evaluations, and psychological disability evaluations.

Transitioning to academia, Dr. Yao served as a Psychology Lecturer at Nevada State College, later becoming the founding Dean of Students.

At CSUCI, he has demonstrated exemplary leadership during challenging times, including campus evacuations, wildfires, a mass shooting, and the global pandemic.

As Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Yao enhanced collaborations between Academic and Student Affairs, aligning co-curricular programming with the university’s academic mission. He spearheaded initiatives to improve student success and led a system-wide pilot program to develop a Student Affairs data dashboard.

Under Dr. Yao’s leadership, CSUCI has achieved significant milestones, including re-centralizing Institutional Research, implementing the University’s first Inclusive Excellence Action Plan, and launching an Integrated Marketing Communication Plan. His commitment to transparency, engagement, diversity, equity, and inclusion drives CSUCI’s academic mission, prioritizing student-centered education and regional impact.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS EMPOWERMENT BREAKFAST

GUEST SPEAKER



Michaela Perez
*Policy Advisor and
Community Organizer*

An Oxnard native, is a Policy Advisor and Community Organizer. She has a Masters of Public Health and a Bachelor's in Psychology from San Francisco State University. Perez has a 10-year track record in policy advocacy and community organizing. Previously, she managed a \$17M budget program to increase BIPOC representation in STEM fields, she coordinated the Opportunities for All Workforce Development initiative, and implemented campaign strategies for elected officials during critical elections. She established a Legislative Committee which successfully passed social

impact legislation and has worked with national organizations to develop policy frameworks to address inequities. Michaela's work is built on the concept that we can find and establish long-term solutions when our community and under-invested populations are included in the policy and program development process. Perez was recently appointed by Supervisor Vianey Lopez to advise the Board of Supervisors on Climate Emergency Planning for Ventura County. Perez is currently the Community Organizer for the Gathering for Justice where they focus on eliminating systematic barriers and developing the next generation of change-makers within our community. Ms. Perez is committed to ensuring that young people in Oxnard are civically engaged and have access to economic pathways.







POWERFUL WOMEN, WOMEN IN POWER LUNCHEON

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 12:00 PM

TIDES BALLROOM AB

PROGRAM

FOLKLÓRICO DANCER

Adriana Campos

Member, Anaheim LULAC Council #2848

HARPIST

Miguel Lopez

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

David Cruz

LULAC National Communications Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gillian Mireles

Member, Oxnard LULAC Council #3147

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mariely Ramos

Student, Hueneme High School

LULAC PRAYER

Yvonne Gonzalez Duncan

President, Anaheim LULAC Council #2848

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Karen Sher

State Council Delegate, California Teachers Association

Gladys F. Marquez

National Education Association Executive Committee

APPRECIATION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Miriam Aguilar Escobar

Deputy State Director for Women

CLOSING REMARKS

MUSIC & NETWORKING

LEIS CEREMONY

Miriam Aguilar Escobar, Yvonne Gonzalez, Duncan, Olga Valle, Nancy Mireles

WOMEN IN POWER LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER



Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Lorena is the first woman and first person of color to serve as Chief Officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO sworn in on July 27, 2022.

Her first summer job was with the San Diego Labor Council's Labor Participation non-profit, handing out food bags to striking workers. She would later go on to become the Political Director and eventually be elected Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Officer of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO. In 2013, she was elected to the State Assembly promising to fight for California's working and middle classes. The Atlantic Magazine labeled her "The California Democrat setting the National Agenda" for her practical, progressive legislation aimed at alleviating real issues in people's lives. In 2014, she passed historic legislation to allow every single Californian the ability to earn

paid sick leave, creating a model for the nation to follow. In 2016, she went on to author a law making California the first state in the nation to require farmworkers to be paid overtime after 8 hours of work in a day. She authored legislation to protect janitorial workers against sexual assault and provide professional cheerleaders basic labor protections, both of which became subjects of national PBS documentaries. In 2019, Lorena passed Assembly Bill 5, the strongest law in the country protecting workers against misclassification and wage theft. In 2021, Lorena passed legislation to ensure employers in California can be criminally prosecuted and sent to prison for engaging in intentional wage theft, and she authored the nation's first law establishing worker protections against Amazon's dangerous warehouse production quotas. Lorena was the first Latina to serve as Chairwoman of a legislative Appropriations Committee and the longest-serving Chair in history. She also served as Chairwoman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus from 2019 to 2020. A graduate of Stanford University, she holds a master's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from UCLA.



WOMEN IN POWER LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKERS



Gladys F. Marquez

*National Education
Association Executive
Committee*

Gladys Fátima Márquez is a high school bilingual English Language Learners (ELL) Teacher with over 20 years of classroom experience. She was elected to the NEA Executive Committee in 2021 for a three-year term.

As the past Chair of the NEA Hispanic Caucus, Gladys organized nationwide events to raise awareness about the plight of immigrants in America, including “Teach-Ins” at immigration detention centers, humanitarian missions to shelters at the border, and helped organize massive marches in protest of the national policy leading to the separation of immigrant families and the incarceration of immigrant children.

Gladys also lobbied and led efforts in support of a clean Dream Act, and fought for Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), advocated for Deferred Action for Parental Adjustment (DAPA), and helped facilitate countless “Know-Your-Rights” clinics to help protect immigrant communities across the nation. Her goal has always been focused on the advocacy and protection of those living in the shadows of America’s broken immigration system.

Gladys began her education career in Midlothian, Illinois in 1996 working as a parent liaison, Spanish language translator, in her sons’ elementary school. In 2000, she began her teaching career as a 7th grade bilingual/ELL student and has since taught students in grades ranging from kindergarten to adult education.

Gladys holds a bachelor’s degree in English/Language Arts Education, a Master of Arts in secondary school administration, and a Doctor of Education in multi- and interdisciplinary studies, all from Governors State University in University Park, Illinois.



Karen Sher

*State Council Delegate,
California Teachers
Association*

After serving as a public school teacher for 30 years, Karen now serves as Director of Teacher Recruitment for the California Department of Education and as a consultant to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. She has earned Master’s Degrees in Developmental Reading and Instructional

Leadership and a CSBA Masters in Governance. In her third term as a Trustee to the Oxnard Union High School District, she also serves as an Assembly Delegate to the National Education Association and the California Teachers Association, as a teacher leader for UCSB’s South Coast Writing Project, Stanford University’s Instructional Leadership Corps, and the United States Library of Congress.



WORKSHOPS SESSION 1

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

LOCATION	WORKSHOP	PANELISTS AND MODERATORS
Coastal 1 2nd Floor	<p>How to Create a Public Service Announcement: Writing the Script</p> <p>Learn how to write an effective script for a public service announcement on an issue important to you and your community. In this session, we will brainstorm PSA topic ideas, learn how to identify your audience, decide the impact you want to make, and more.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>William Alejandro Virchis, Producing Artistic Director, Teatro Mascara Magica</i> <i>Isabel Leon, Stage Manager, Teatro Máscara Mágica</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Tim Evans</p>
Coastal 2 2nd Floor	<p>From ESL Students to Civil Rights Attorneys: How to Become a Lawyer.</p> <p>This workshop is led by two civil rights lawyers. This workshop will provide a comprehensive road map to becoming a lawyer. The panelists will also share their personal stories. Panel attendees can ask all questions relative to the process of becoming a lawyer.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Denisse O. Gastélum, Esq., Founder and Trial Lawyer, Gastélum Law, APC</i> <i>Christian Contreras, Esq., Civil Rights Attorney, Christian Contreras Firm, PLC</i></p>
Shore 2nd Floor	<p>Running for Office as a Young Adult</p> <p>We are the future! Learn what it takes to run for office as a young adult. In this workshop you will meet young adults who have ran for office OR managed campaigns. We will cover the basics of running for office; such as fundraising, campaign strategy and touch on campaign law. You will also hear stories from young adults in office and the challenges they have faced.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Atticus Reyes, OUSD Board Clerk, Trustee Area 3</i> <i>Sebastian Cazares, School Board Member, College of the Canyons</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Orion Tripodis, Political Consultant</p>
Reef 2nd Floor	<p>The Future of Energy, How Technology will Shape How We Power Our Everyday Lives</p> <p>Join us as we discuss the future of energy! With demands for clean energy at an all-time high, we will offer insight on the technology that will pioneer energy for generations. In this workshop, you will hear from current shareholders in the energy sector. They will discuss their current technologies and what they have planned for keeping our future bright!</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Joshua Paul Torres, Senior Policy Advisor - Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison</i> <i>Janea' Benton, Senior Director for External Affairs, Aera Energy LLC</i> <i>Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, 3rd District, San Luis Obispo County</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Argelia Leon, Director, Strategic Partnerships and SW Policy Western States Petroleum Association</p>
Tides C	<p>Further Enhancing Your Career</p> <p>The panel discussion will cover essential aspects of professional development guided by accomplished panelists who bring a wealth of expertise. Gain valuable insights on navigating job applications and interviews, effective networking, harnessing mentorship opportunities, and utilizing educational resources for continuous growth. This session aims to equip you with practical tools to propel your career forward.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Laura Barroso, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Ventura County Community College District</i> <i>Danielle Keys, Human Resources Director, City of Ventura</i> <i>Matt Escobedo, Deputy Executive Officer - Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer, County of Ventura</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Yolanda Benitez, Educator</p>

HOW TO CREATE A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: WRITING THE SCRIPT

PANELIST



William Alejandro Virchis

*Producing Artistic Director,
Teatro Mascara Magica*

Mr. William A. Virchis, born in Mexico City to Roman J. Virchis and Margarita Olvera Virchis, boasts a rich background in education and the arts. Graduating from Chula Vista Junior High, Chula Vista High School, Southwestern College, and San Diego State University, he also pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Mexico City. Mr. Virchis holds multiple degrees, including an AA from Southwestern College, a B.A., and an M.A. from San Diego State University, along with various administrative and technical credentials.

Distinguished as the inaugural Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Director for the Sweetwater Union High School District, Mr. Virchis is celebrated as an award-winning director, producer, actor, mime, and championship

wrestling coach. With a career spanning over 50 years, he has amassed over 250 productions and earned over 100 national and international awards, proclamations, and citations.

A prominent figure in the Chicano movement and Latin American Theater in the US, Mr. Virchis has been inducted into five halls of fame. He has contributed significantly to the cultural landscape, presenting to under-served and diverse communities worldwide.

Internationally recognized for his contributions, Mr. Virchis has directed, produced, and acted in numerous iconic plays and multimedia productions. Notable works include the 20th Anniversary production of Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez, Real Women have Curves by Josefina Lopez, and the critically acclaimed National Tour of the musical, Selena Forever, among others. He continues to push artistic boundaries, as evidenced by his pioneering theatrical Zoom production, Etapas (Stages of Valor), in 2020.



FROM ESL STUDENTS TO CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEYS: HOW TO BECOME A LAWYER. PANELISTS



Denisse O. Gastélum
*Founder and Trial Lawyer,
Gastélum Law, APC*

Denisse is the founder and lead trial attorney at Gastélum Law, APC, where her civil rights practice focuses primarily on police shootings and in-custody death cases, representing plaintiffs in state and federal courts throughout the State of California. She previously worked as a defense attorney, where she specialized in public entity defense. This experience provides her with the unique ability to analyze a case from both a defense and plaintiff's perspective.

Ms. Gastélum is a proud Past President of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), Latina Lawyers Bar Association (LLBA) and the California La Raza Lawyers Association (CLRLA), and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Southern California (ACLU SoCal), National Police Accountability Project (NPAP), Los Angeles County

Bar Association (LACBA), Consumers Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), and the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC). She received her B.A. from UCLA and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.

Over the years, Denisse has been a speaker on various panels regarding the practice of law and career advice. She is considered an expert in in-custody death civil rights cases. In 2024, Denisse was the lead litigator behind the historic jail death settlement in the Trejo v. County of Imperial. In 2023 and 2022, Denisse was recognized as a Super Lawyer. In 2022, Denisse was a recipient of the CAOC Street Fighter of the Year Award for her role on the litigation team behind the Alarcio v. County of Los Angeles federal civil rights action, which resulted in the largest jail-death related settlement against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. In 2021, Denisse was recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Association as a Top Lawyers Under 40 Award recipient. In 2020, Denisse was recognized as being Top 40 Under 40 and Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers.



Christian Contreras
*Civil Rights Attorney,
Christian Contreras Firm,
PLC*

Christian Contreras is an attorney, civil rights activist, and community leader. Mr. Contreras has a robust law practice in the areas of civil rights, personal injury, trials and criminal defense. In his capacity as a lawyer, Mr. Contreras litigates a broad range of cases affecting constitutional rights both in civil rights cases and criminal defense cases. So far, in 2023 alone, Mr. Contreras has taken five (5) cases to trial. Mr. Contreras is the principal of the Christian Contreras Firm, PLC, a partner with the

civil rights firm, Guizar, Henderson & Carrazco, LLP, and a civil rights activist with Justice X.

Mr. Contreras currently serves on the board of directors for the East Los Angeles College Foundation, the board of directors for the Protesters Defense Alliance, the board of directors for the Mexican American Bar Association ("MABA") and is board of Peoples College of Law. Mr. Contreras was also recently appointed as California state-wide legal advisor to the League of United Latin American Citizens ("LULAC").

Finally, Mr. Contreras also teaches civil rights at the law school, Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles, California.

RUNNING FOR OFFICE AS A YOUNG ADULT

PANELISTS



Atticus Reyes
*OUSD Board Clerk,
Trustee Area 3*

Atticus was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles as the son of a Mexican immigrant father and an Anglo-American single mother. Atticus moved to Ojai the summer before high school and has called Ojai home ever since.

In Fall 2022, at the age of 25 years old, Atticus was elected in an uncontested race to the Ojai Unified School Board. In his second month on the Board, Atticus and his colleagues were faced with a multi-million dollar financial crisis which resulted in the laying off of over 30 employees and the closure of 3 schools. In his fifth month on the Board, following multiple resignations, Atticus was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Board President. Atticus was re-elected Board President in December 2023 and in January 2024, for the first time in over a year, the Ojai Unified School District achieved a positive budget.

Atticus graduated from CSU Channel Islands in 2019 with a degree in History and a minor in Political Science. While at CSUCI, Atticus participated in the Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program, served on the Model United Nations Team, and was elected ASI Student Government President.

After graduation, Atticus was selected for the Capital Fellows Senate Fellowship Program, where he focused on environmental policy under State Senator Ben Allen. Atticus currently works for Assembly member Steve Bennett as a field representative.



Sebastian Cazares
*School Board Member,
College of the Canyons*

Sebastian is a second year Master of Public Policy (MPP) student, set to graduate from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs in the Spring of 2024. Sebastian is a double-Bruin, having also received his B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Chicana/o and Central American Studies from UCLA.

Throughout his youth, Sebastian worked as an activist, scholar, public speaker, and organizer dedicating himself to racial justice, student advocacy, and progressive movements. In 2020, Sebastian made history after winning an elected seat as a school-board member at the age of 20, becoming one of the youngest elected officials on record in LA County and one of the youngest Latinos to ever hold public office in California. Sebastian aims to dedicate his life towards promoting decolonization, civil rights, liberation, and justice for under-served communities, and ultimately, equity for all people of color through policy. He's received official endorsements by the California Teachers Association, LA Labor, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, as well as a variety of statewide/county organizations dedicated to empowering unions, public education, and civil rights.

Currently, Sebastian serves as a Fellow with UCLA's Voting Rights Project (VRP) under the Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPPI). As a descendant of a rare group of Hawai'i-raised Puerto Ricans since 1901, Mexican bracero-activists of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, and multi-generational U.S. Veterans, Sebastian's unique family history heavily influenced and inspired his passion for advocating for marginalized communities.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY, HOW TECHNOLOGY WILL SHAPE HOW WE POWER OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

PANELISTS



Joshua Paul Torres
*Senior Policy Advisor–
Local Public Affairs,
Southern California Edison*

Joshua Torres is a Senior Policy Advisor with Southern California Edison’s Local Public Affairs department. He leads external engagement in support of several of SCE’s key clean energy-related initiatives. He works with SCE’s LPA team to educate local government and community stakeholders about SCE’s plan for building a clean energy future and to develop the partnerships necessary to achieve these goals.



Janaea Benton
*Senior Director for External
Affairs, Aera Energy LLC*

Janaea supports both community and elected leaders and ensures that industry responsibly delivers energy and unsurpassed value. Janaea serves as the external lead for Aera’s low carbon solutions projects such as carbon capture and storage and Direct Air Capture. She also serves as the Kern County lead for oil and gas advocacy. Prior to joining Aera she previously worked for Assembly member Rudy Salas and supported small businesses, veterans and workers’ rights, and investment in infrastructure. She also worked at California State University, Bakersfield where she gained experience and passion for serving people and communities. She also serves on the boards for Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Foundation, Central Valley Business Federation,

Taft College Foundation, Kern Economic Development Corporation and the Bakersfield Chamber Leadership Advisory Council. Janaea is a past board member of the Kern Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and CAPK. When not working to advance Aera’s multiple projects and initiatives, she is a mentor at South High School’s MS3 program, mentor at Bakersfield College MESA program, and regular classroom volunteer and team mom for her daughters. Having been born and raised in Bakersfield, California, Bakersfield College, and CSUB she is proud to continue to call Bakersfield home, where she raises her three daughters who are often seen volunteering beside her.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY, HOW TECHNOLOGY WILL SHAPE HOW WE POWER OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

PANELIST



Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
3rd District, San Luis Obispo County

Supervisor Ortiz-Legg term was appointed by the Honorable Gavin Newsom in November 2020 to fill the vacancy left by the late Supervisor Adam Hill. In June of 2022, she secured election by the voters to complete this term, set to conclude in 2024. She is the first woman of Latin American/Indigenous decent to be elected to the Board of Supervisors in San Luis Obispo County.

Supervisor Ortiz-Legg was born and raised in rural Illinois and has lived in San Luis Obispo since 1992, contributing to her community while working in energy, infrastructure, and economic development. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Pepperdine University and a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

She is best known in her community for implementing California's renewable energy policy to impact and improve people's lives positively. The development and construction of multiple utility-scale solar projects created hundreds of jobs and long-term opportunities for central coast residents and businesses. Simply

put, Ortiz-Legg has installed more clean energy than any other San Luis Obispo County public official.

She is passionate about various aspects impacting the county's well-being. Ensuring quality of life encompasses addressing housing issues, supporting mental health and social services, and endorsing safety and security measures, such as law enforcement and court support. Recognizing the contributions of many individuals who enhance the county's excellence is also an essential aspect. Drawing from her years in the private and public sectors, Supervisor Ortiz-Legg believes that the best successes are achieved through collaborative efforts. San Luis Obispo County, with its remarkable citizens contributing selflessly to others, embodies the motto "Not for Ourselves Alone". She takes this statement and her oath seriously, acknowledging the vital role it plays in shaping a progressive democracy. She expresses gratitude for the community's contributions, and their role in making San Luis Obispo County an exceptional place to live. Today, she resides in San Luis Obispo and is mother to one grown daughter, Georgia Legg.



FURTHER ENHANCING YOUR CAREER

PANELISTS



Laura Barroso
Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Ventura County Community College District

Laura Barroso is an esteemed leader with over 30 years of experience in higher education and public agency administration in California. Currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources at Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD), Laura brings a wealth of expertise to her role.

Since joining VCCCD in 2018, Laura has held various positions, including Director of Human Resources Operations and Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources. In her current capacity, she provides collaborative senior administrative leadership across all functional areas within the District Office and its associated colleges: Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura. Laura oversees District recruitment, human resources operations,

benefits, employee professional development, labor negotiations, and more.

Laura's educational background includes an associate degree from Oxnard College, a bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Northridge, and a master's degree in psychology from Antioch University in Santa Barbara. She also holds certifications as a Society of Human Resources Management Senior Certified Professional and an International Public Management Association for Human Resources Senior Certified Professional.

As a lifelong resident of Ventura County, Laura is deeply committed to the success of the community college district. She believes the organization's greatest assets are its dedicated faculty and classified professionals. Laura's leadership philosophy centers on building strong relationships, fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual respect, and embracing continuous improvement. Through these efforts, she aims to ensure that VCCCD effectively serves its employees, students, and the broader community.



Danielle Keys
Human Resources Director, City of Ventura

Danielle is a seasoned Public Sector Human Resource professional. With nearly 20 years of public sector experience and serving in various management roles for the past 15 years, she prides herself in bringing the "Human" back to Human Resources.

Danielle currently serves as the Human Resources Director for the City of Ventura and previously the Human Resources Director for the Ventura County Fire Department. She is dedicated to the vast nature of human resources including, but not limited to employee training and development,

classification and compensation, policy and procedures, risk and absence management, benefits administration, union negotiations and DEI initiatives.

Danielle is an innovative and creative professional with an heart for people. She has a passion for improving employee relations and a dedicated focus on increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in Public Service organizations.

Danielle has held Senior Management positions in both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including local school district and City organizations.

Danielle's driving force is her family. She loves spending time with her husband of 25 years and 3 beautiful daughters and the family Bulldog, Bruce!

FURTHER ENHANCING YOUR CAREER PANELIST



Matt Escobedo

*Deputy Executive Officer –
Human Resources, Equal
Employment Opportunity
(EEO) Officer
County of Ventura*

Matt Escobedo is a Deputy Executive Officer within the Human Resources Division of the County Executive Office at the County of Ventura. He oversees a large staff engaged in a broad variety of work including recruitment, classification and compensation, employee benefits, Equal Employment Opportunity, Organizational Learning & Development amongst others. He also serves as the County Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

Matt has over 18 years of public sector human resources experience serving multiple jurisdictions including professional roles at the County of Ventura, City of Santa Monica, California Community Colleges, and Los Angeles Unified School District where he began his career in public service. He is also currently serving his

second term as a Personnel Commissioner for the Ventura County Community College District. He is an advocate of the merit system and is a thought leader in recruitment and selection which is reflected by his former role as President and Executive Director of the Personnel Testing Council of Southern California (PTC-SC), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of fair and non-discriminatory employment practices, and to encourage use of professionally sound testing practices.

He became the first person in his family to graduate from college when he acquired his associate degree from Antelope Valley College and transferred to California State University, Long Beach, where he graduated with both a bachelor's and master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology. He resides in Ventura with his wife and two young sons and is very active in his community.





WORKSHOPS SESSION 2

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 10:40 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION	WORKSHOP	PANELISTS / PRESENTER AND MODERATORS
Coastal 1 2nd Floor	<p>How to Create a Public Service Announcement: Part 2: Creating the PSA</p> <p>Putting the script in action! Work as a team to produce, film, and edit the public service announcement.</p>	<p>PANELISTS William Alejandro Virchis, <i>Producing Artistic Director, Teatro Mascara Magica</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Tim Evans</p>
Coastal 2 2nd Floor	<p>Civil Rights Law Workshop: How non-lawyers can get involved to promote civil rights.</p> <p>This workshop will provide non-lawyers effective techniques to advance the mission of LULAC in the area of civil rights and also techniques on advancing civil rights. For example, issuance of public record act requests, organizing with community stakeholders, and working with civil rights lawyers.</p>	<p>PANELISTS Denisse O. Gastélum, <i>Esq., Founder and Trial Lawyer, Gastélum Law, APC</i></p> <p>Christian Contreras, <i>Esq., Civil Rights Attorney, Christian Contreras Firm, PLC</i></p>
Shore 2nd Floor	<p>Empowering Paths, Insights from Women in Leadership</p> <p>Learn from heavy-hitting, successful, Latina leaders in renewable energy and manufacturing. You will learn valuable professional development skills and professional wisdom while being inspired by the challenges these women overcame before excelling in male-dominated fields.</p>	<p>PANELISTS Nancy Mireles, <i>Director of Operations, MAGicALL</i></p> <p>Deborah Reyes, <i>Vice President of Development, 174 Power Global</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Erica Mendoza, <i>Int. Marketing Director, Somos LOUD</i></p>
Reef 2nd Floor	<p>Latinos in STEM: Professional Development</p> <p>The panel discussion will bring together a group of accomplished engineers to explore and address the challenges and opportunities in encouraging Latinos to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The panelists will share their personal journeys, highlighting the impact of representation and mentorship in their own careers.</p>	<p>PANELISTS Dr. Marcella Klein-Williams, <i>STEM Director, Oxnard College</i></p> <p>Merak Duarte, <i>Mechanical Engineer, MAGicALL</i></p> <p>Gissele Vazquez, <i>Environmental Engineer, Ashworth Leininger Group</i></p> <p>MODERATOR Sebastien Banales, <i>Environmental Engineer</i></p>
Tides C	<p>Leadership: Taking your organization to the next level.</p> <p>Join us for an insightful workshop led by Steven Keller, Pacific Market President at Verizon, as he shares his expertise on elevating organizational leadership. Learn about critical leadership skills, the principles of servant leadership, and more. Whether you're a seasoned leader or aspiring to enhance your leadership skills, this workshop will equip you with the tools and knowledge to drive positive change and up-level your leadership style."</p>	<p>PRESENTER Steven Keller, <i>Pacific Market President, Verizon</i></p>

HOW TO CREATE A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: PART 2: CREATING THE PSA **PANELIST**



**William Alejandro
Virchis**

*Producing Artistic Director,
Teatro Mascara Magica*

See biography on page 15

CIVIL RIGHTS LAW WORKSHOP: HOW NON-LAWYERS CAN GET INVOLVED TO PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS. **PANELISTS**



Denisse O. Gastélum

*Founder and Trial Lawyer,
Gastélum Law, APC*

See biography on page 16



Christian Contreras

*Civil Rights Attorney,
Christian Contreras Firm,
PLC*

See biography on page 16

EMPOWERING PATHS, INSIGHTS FROM WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

PANELISTS



Nancy Mireles
Director of Operations,
MAGicALL

Nancy has more than 30 years of experience in the manufacturing sector, focusing on the production and distribution of medical products. Presently, she serves as the Director of Operations at a dynamic Camarillo-based company that specializes in designing and manufacturing advanced electromechanical components and electric power conversion systems, which

are transforming the aviation industry. One of the company's ongoing projects involves collaborating with Airbus to design and construct a motor to ensure cutting-edge technology in flight control, aerodynamics, and propulsion. The company is collaborating with multiple partners on the future of mobility, which is soaring with Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) vehicles. Nancy earned her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from California Lutheran University.



Deborah Reyes
Vice President of
Development, 174 Power
Global

Deborah Reyes brings 30 years of experience originating and advancing global energy projects starting from a raw land parcel through construction with intimate knowledge of key site selection, land acquisition, interconnection/transmission issues, full permitting/entitlement processes, off taker origination, financing, project marketing, strategic market entry analysis, and contract negotiations. Her renewable and conventional experience includes power site development in the UK, Spain, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, and various U.S. states. Currently, Ms. Reyes is Vice President, Development, Eastern U.S. Region & Mexico County Manager for 174 Power Global USA. Her most notable accomplishment at

174PG is the origination, development and project installation of Texas' largest utility-scale solar facility at the time, Midway Solar (238 MW), which achieved operational success in 2018; the largest pv project at the time. Under her leadership, the East pipeline has increased to over 3.5 GW of projects in addition to the first utility-scale solar project in the mining state of Coahuila, Mexico (120 MW, operating since 2019). Ms. Reyes holds a Master's degree from the Graduate School of International Relations & Pacific Studies (UCSD), a B.A. in both Political Science and French Linguistics (UC Irvine) and is fluent in five languages. She's an active Board Member on the Virginia Renewable Energy Association and President of the San Diego Women of Wind Energy (WoWE) Chapter. Deborah received WoWE's "Woman of the Year" award in 2013. She is based in San Diego and is a native Californian.

LATINOS IN STEM: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PANELISTS



Dr. Marcella Klein-Williams

*STEM Director,
Oxnard College*

This HSI-STEM grant initiative enhances student participation, transfer articulation, and success in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Dr. Klein Williams' strengths include organizational development, systems design, and strategic partnerships. Her career spans teaching and administration within the P-20 California education system over the last 30 years. Previously,

she served as a Regional Director for the Ventura County Office of Education, as the Chief Education Officer for the California STEM Learning Network, as Director of Special Projects for Somis Union School District and classroom teacher and administrator for Ventura Unified School District. She served as a STEM Advisor for the Clinton Global Initiative-America in 2014-2015.



Merak Duarte

*Mechanical Engineer,
MAGicALL*

Merak was born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. Currently, he is a mechanical engineer at MAGicALL, Inc in Camarillo, where he is involved in the development and production of electric motors for aircraft and marine vehicles. In 2022, he earned a Master of Science degree in Product

Development Engineering from the University of Southern California. Prior to moving to the United States, he worked as a product design engineer at Hyundai Mexico after receiving his bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Baja California.

LATINOS IN STEM: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PANELIST



Gissele Vazquez
*Environmental Engineer,
Ashworth Leininger Group*

Gissele Vazquez is a first generation Mexican American and first-generation university graduate. Born into a family of hardworking immigrants in Oxnard, California, she understood the value of education and the importance of breaking down barriers from an early age. Gissele's journey took her to the University of California, Irvine, where she pursued her passion for the environment. In 2021, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, marking not only a personal triumph but also a significant milestone for her family. With her degree in hand, Gissele embarked on a career path dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Today, she serves as an Environmental Engineer at Ashworth Leininger Group, a consultancy firm specializing in air quality and environmental

services. In this role, Gissele applies her expertise in regulatory compliance, program development, and evaluation to assist a diverse array of clients, including industry leaders, trade associations, and government agencies. Gissele's work extends across various domains, including water quality, hazardous materials/waste compliance, and air quality permitting and reporting. She plays a pivotal role in helping industrial facilities and municipalities develop and implement effective wastewater, storm water, and hazardous waste control programs, with the goal of preserving the health of the environment. Beyond her professional endeavors, Gissele remains committed to giving back to her community and inspiring future generations. During her college years, she was actively involved in MAES, an organization dedicated to promoting Latino representation in STEM fields. Through mentorship and advocacy, Gissele seeks to empower others to pursue their ambitions and overcome societal barriers.



LEADERSHIP: TAKING YOUR ORGANIZATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

PRESENTER



Steven Keller
*Pacific Market President,
Verizon*

Steven is an accomplished sales and field operations leader, currently serving as the Senior Vice President and Market President for Verizon's Pacific Market. In this role, he oversees the consumer group workforce and responsible for 2,500 employees, 214 corporate stores, and 1,196 agent doors. Throughout his 16-year tenure with Verizon, he has focused on cross-channel expertise across multiple markets and geographies with increasing levels of responsibilities. Moreover, he has demonstrated his commitment to driving profitable results with a keen focus on teamwork and collaborative partnerships. Prior to his current position, Steven held the position of Consumer Vice President for Verizon's West Region. His journey at Verizon began in 2007 as a District Manager in Spokane, WA, working within the Indirect

sector. Over the years, he continued his growth by assuming roles such as Director of Indirect, Director of Retail, and Director of Operations, and Executive Director of National Operations. A proud veteran of the Marine Corps, Steven served from 1995–2001. He continues to champion the welfare of fellow veterans as an active member of Verizon's ERG VALOR. Passionate about inclusivity, diversity, and mentorship, Steven's values extend beyond the workplace. He holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Organizational Leadership with a focus on Servant Leadership from Gonzaga University. Recently relocating to Southern California for his current role, Steven enjoys spending quality time with his family. Traveling and training for Ironman triathlons are ways he finds time to pursue hobbies to fulfill work life balance.





WORKSHOPS SESSION 3

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION	WORKSHOP	PANELISTS / PRESENTER AND MODERATORS
Coastal 1 2nd Floor	<p>Career Panel: Journey through the Healthcare Pathway</p> <p>Learn about the career opportunities in the healthcare field through three different perspectives.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Angel Galvez, Chief Executive Officer, Bakersfield American Indian Health Project and Urban Indian Health Center</i> <i>Alicia Rincon, Registered Nurse, Westminster Free Clinic</i> <i>Jazmin Guajardo, Nursing Students, California State University Channel Islands</i></p> <p>MODERATORS <i>Jaimeson Sonne-Diddi, CA LULAC Deputy State Director for Youth</i> <i>Andrea Zamora, President LULAC Council #3026</i></p>
Coastal 2 2nd Floor	<p>America’s Peacemaker: Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice</p> <p><i>Did you know that there’s a federal agency that works to reduce community tensions?</i></p> <p>The Community Relations Service (CRS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, is active throughout communities in the United States. As a neutral third-party mediator, CRS is impartial and does not investigate, prosecute nor advocate. Come find out more about “America’s Peacemaker,” and its programs related to administration of justice, education, and general community relations.</p>	<p>PRESENTER <i>Libby Jacobson, Conciliation Specialist – Western Region U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service</i></p>
Reef 2nd Floor	<p>Environmental Racism</p> <p>Join us for our discussion on how climate change has disproportionately affected people of color. In this panel discussion, we will address historic injustices that have led to POC suffering from climate change. We will also have a conversation about groups who are currently fighting to fix these injustices while making the planet greener.</p>	<p>PANELISTS <i>Cesunica Ivey, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley</i> <i>Angelica Solloa, Digital Organizer, NDN Collective</i></p> <p>MODERATOR <i>Sebastien Banales, Environmental Engineer</i></p>
Tides C	<p>State of LGBTQ+ Equality in California</p> <p>This workshop will dive into the current LGBTQ+ legislative landscape, recent attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, political representation, and the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals in the state. Led by Equality California’s Legislative Director, Craig Pulsipher and Communications Director, Jorge Reyes Salinas. Participants will gain valuable insights into recent legislation, discuss potential strategies for advocacy amidst rising attacks, discuss the potential political representation in the upcoming election, and more. This session is for advocates, policymakers, and allies to deepen their understanding, engage in critical dialogue, and collaborate toward a more equitable and inclusive California for all LGBTQ+ individuals.</p>	<p>PRESENTERS <i>Jorge Reyes Salinas, Communications Director, Equality CA</i> <i>Craig Pulsipher, Legislative Director, Equality CA</i></p>



WORKSHOPS SESSION 3

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION	WORKSHOP	PANELISTS / PRESENTER AND MODERATORS
<p>Shore 2nd Floor</p>	<p>Deported Veterans, “Bring Them Home”</p> <p>Deported veterans face a severe and often overlooked problem: after serving the United States, they are at risk of deportation due to failures in the naturalization process during their service time or due to minor criminal offenses post-service. Historically, non-citizens have served valiantly in the U.S. armed forces, with a strong record of dedication and lower dropout rates. Despite this, many non-citizen veterans have been misinformed about their citizenship status or have had their naturalization applications lost or mishandled. The irony is stark; veterans who risk their lives for the nation are not guaranteed the citizenship they were promised, and instead of being treated with respect due to their service, they face the possibility of deportation. This workshop will show the short film “Bring Them Home” and afterward have a discussion. How to help our Deported Veterans who served their country with pride and learn about H.R.7946 – Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2022. This is not an immigration issue but a veteran’s issue.</p> <p><i>“Bring Them Home” is a powerful award-winning documentary exploring the harrowing issue of deported veterans—a group who has honorably served yet finds themselves exiled by the very nation they defended. This gripping film reveals the harsh realities of non-citizen soldiers who confront the threat of deportation due to shifting immigration laws, intertwining personal sacrifice with national identity.</i></p>	<p>PRESENTERS</p> <p>James Smith, Director and Co-founder of Black Deported Veterans of America</p> <p>Livier Lazaro, Commander, Commander Don Diego VFW 7420 Legislative Committee Chair Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California</p>



CAREER PANEL: JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEALTHCARE PATHWAY PANELISTS



Alicia Rincon, RN
Westminster Free Clinic

Alicia is a registered nurse. Her passion is empowering high school students to do their best and learn about careers in healthcare. In addition to training, supervising, and mentoring over 250 teens each year at WFC's 3 clinics, she also teaches a medical assistant course so high school students can become MA certified when they graduate high school. Alicia started volunteering at Westminster Free Clinic in 2010, and served on the governing board of directors for two years. She was then hired as the Diabetic Clinic Coordinator in 2016 and later as the Clinic Manager. Alicia also helped kick off the Corazones Sanos (Healthy Hearts) Program; she provided health education, inspired participants to make life-style changes and helped with administrative and organizational tasks necessary to implement the program for over 200 participants. Alicia really enjoys the students at WFC and wanted to lead WFC's Teen Healthcare Training & Internship program. Alicia has been the Teen Manager for a number of years now and feels she has found her calling. Alicia still helps out in other areas as needed, but finds working with the teens inspiring and rewarding, and as a Spanish speaking immigrant herself, a place she can create a pathway to healthcare careers for young people, especially low-income youth. Alicia's goal in life is to live fully and intensively while making a difference to people around her, including patients, family, and friends.



**M. Angel Galvez,
BS, MAOL**
*Chief Executive Officer,
Bakersfield American
Indian Health Project
and Urban Indian Health
Center*

Mr. Manuel "Angel" Galvez was born to immigrant parents and is a first generation Mexican American. Angel's father is part of the Purepecha-Tarasco Indigenas (Western Highland Tarasco Indians) from Michoacan. Angel's lived experience with his own struggle of drug and alcohol addiction; his development and contributions to community health through capital projects and innovation has prepared him for serving the diverse needs of Indigenous people in California.

Mr. Galvez has spent a life-long career improving health care systems for the benefit of unserved and under-served communities. Angel earned his graduate degree in Organizational Leadership from Fresno Pacific University and obtained his undergraduate degree in Criminology with an emphasis in Victimology from California State University of Fresno. His interests in holistic and traditional healing practices took him to study abroad, earning graduate research certificates in Indigenous Studies in Mito, Japan and Bogota, Colombia, to name a few.

As a professor, Mr. Galvez enjoyed teaching young aspiring leaders Cultural Diversity and Organizational Ethics and Policy. Angel is the Chief Executive Officer for the Bakersfield American Indian Health Center, Inc.

CAREER PANEL: JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEALTHCARE PATHWAY PANELIST



Jazmin Guajardo
*Nursing Student, California
State University Channel
Islands*

An Oxnard native, is a first-generation student pursuing her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing at CSU Channel Islands. On campus, she currently serves as Student Government Vice President, LULAC Council #3291 President, Everyone is Our Priority Club President, and Student Nurses' Association Vice President. Since 2020, she has served as a mentor to over 100 first-generation college students often from low-income and marginalized backgrounds, pursuing their careers in healthcare within the CSUCI Educational Opportunity Program, Dolphin Scholars Program, and Pre-Nursing Club. Recognizing the importance of mentoring, in 2021 Guajardo established a Pre-

Nursing Mentor Program within the Pre-Nursing Club to serve students preparing to apply to Nursing Programs. As SNA Vice President, Guajardo provides oversight of their First-Year Nursing Student Mentor Program. As Student Government Vice President, Guajardo has spearheaded initiatives supporting academic retention, student involvement, and preserving affordability in higher education. Guajardo is dedicated to ensuring first-generation students are supported by resources and programs that address inequities within higher education and promote success and retention of our most vulnerable communities.



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM PANELIST



Cesunica Ivey
*Assistant Professor of
Civil and Environmental
Engineering, UC Berkeley*

Cesunica Ivey is an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the PI of the Air Quality Modeling and Exposure Lab at UC Berkeley. Ivey's research focuses on the nexus of air pollution science and engineering and environmental justice. She is an emerging leader in the areas of regional air quality modeling and its applications and community-scale air pollution exposure assessment. Ivey works in partnership with community organizations across California to prevent the over-industrialization of already overburdened neighborhoods. She

recently served on a panel at a public hearing for the congressional Environmental Justice for All Act, sponsored by the U.S. Democratic Natural Resources Committee to support the regulation of cumulative burdens in impacted communities. In recognition of her advocacy for frontline communities of the e-commerce supply chain expansion in inland Southern California, Ivey was selected as a member of the American Chemical Society Chemical and Engineering News Talented 12 2021 class and a 2022 Women in Science Incentive Prize winner by The Story Exchange.



**Angelica (Angie)
Solloa (She/Her)**
*Digital Organizer, NDN
Collective*

Angelica serves as the Digital Organizer at NDN Collective, a globally reaching Indigenous led organization working to build Indigenous power and self determination. Angie has experience working with national, regional, and international non-profit organizations, campaigns, and social justice movements to grow online community engagement, creatively reach new audiences, skill up communities, and measure impact

to inform necessary pivots. At NDN the major campaigns include Landback, Free Leonard Peltier, Stop Cop City, addressing racism, anti-mining, and advocating for regenerative systems, among others. Previously, Angie mobilized support for hunger awareness campaigns with Ayesha Curry/No Kid Hungry, an \$8M housing project with Life Learning Academy, and contributed to flipping states during critical elections.

STATE OF LGBTQ+ EQUALITY IN CALIFORNIA

PRESENTER



Craig Pulsipher
*Legislative Director,
Equality CA*

Craig Pulsipher is the Legislative Director for Equality California responsible for leading the organization's state policy, budget, and administrative advocacy work. Prior to joining Equality California, Craig served as the Associate Director of Government Affairs at APLA Health in Los Angeles where he oversaw statewide HIV and health care policy, legislation, budget, and political strategy. During his time at APLA Health,

Craig led a multi-year campaign to reform California's outdated HIV criminal laws, helped pass groundbreaking legislation to expand access to HIV treatment and PrEP, and spearheaded the formation of a new statewide coalition to end the HIV, STD, viral hepatitis, and overdose epidemics. Craig received graduate degrees in Public Policy and Social Welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Jorge Reyes Salinas
*Communications Director,
Equality CA*

Jorge Reyes Salinas is the Communications Director for Equality California and Silver State Equality, based in Sacramento. He was born in Lima, Peru, and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He is a graduate of Cal State Northridge, where he received a Master's Degree in Communication Studies and Bachelor's degree in Journalism. As a student at Cal State Northridge, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the CSU Board

of Trustees. Jorge recently served as Senator Monique Limón's Communications Director. Before that, he served as an Assembly Fellow in the office of Assembly member Kevin Mullin and as a District Representative for Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg. Jorge lives in Sacramento with his Chihuahua Terrier named Chanel and, in his free time, enjoys dancing, eating Hot Cheetos, and ordering Starbucks holiday drinks.

DEPORTED VETERANS, BRING THEM HOME

PRESENTERS



James Smith
*Director and Co-founder
of Black Deported
Veterans of America*

James L. Smith II is the Director and Co-founder of Black Deported Veterans of America (BDVA). BDVA is a support/advocacy organization for veterans of the United States military who have been deported or living in exile. BDVA identifies

veterans in need, especially those who identify as Black/African or Afro-Caribbean. BDVA assists veterans (and their families) seeking repatriation and/or access to earned benefits. Black Deported Veterans of America, Inc.



Livier Lazaro
*Commander, Commander
Don Diego VFW 7420
Legislative Committee Chair
Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Department of California*

Livier J. Lazaro is a proud Chicana whose story embodies perseverance, selfless service, . Born to immigrant parents, she grew up with appreciation for both her cultural heritage and the opportunities available in the United States. Livier enlisted in the U.S. Army at 17, embarking on a 20-year career.

During her military service, Livier exemplified courage and compassion as a combat medic, she retired from the Army as an E-7 and settled in Texas.

Her experiences in the military ignited her passion for human rights advocacy, particularly for deported and repatriated veterans. Livier has been a vocal advocate and supporter for these overlooked heroes, pushing for legislation to address their unique challenges.

She proudly serves as the 3rd-year Commander for Don Diego Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7420, breaking barriers as its first female commander. Her dedication extends beyond her local post; she also serves as VFW CA District 1 Deported Veteran Liaison and VFW CA Legislative Committee Chair.

Livier is a passionate community activist, committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those around her. Whether through organizing events to provide costumes and Christmas presents for her communities, raising awareness for mental health, or lending a hand during San Diego's floods.

Currently residing in San Diego, California, Livier continues using her voice and platform to advocate for those who have sacrificed so much for their country.



GALA AWARDS DINNER

SATURDAY | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 6:00 PM

TIDES BALLROOM

6:00 PM | **MARIACHI AND COCKTAIL HOUR**

7:00 PM | **GALA AWARDS DINNER PROGRAM • DJ afterwards**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES | David Cruz *LULAC National Communications Director*

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

LULAC VIDEO

U.S. SENATOR ALEX PADILLA

(Video Remarks)

David Cruz

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Danny Carrillo

*California LULAC Veterans and
Military Affairs Representative*

LULAC PRAYER

Yolanda Benitez

Educator

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Jose Barrera

LULAC Vice National President of the Far West

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

California Attorney General Rob Bonta

CALIFORNIA LULAC

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Jacob Sandoval

California LULAC State Director

Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

*Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO*

Gladys F. Marquez

*National Education Association
Executive Committee*

Manuel Munoz

Owner of Vida Newspaper

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MENDEZ

ET AL. COURT CASE FAMILIES

William and Virginia Guzman
Son, Billy Guzman

Santa Ana School District

Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez

Daughter, Sylvia Mendez

Westminster School District

Thomas and Ma Luisa Estrada

Daughters, Clara and Syria Estrada

Westminster School District

Frank and Irene Palomino

Children, Artur and Sally Palomino

Garden Grove School District

Lorenzo and Josefina Ramirez

Sons, Ignacio, Silvino and Joe Ramirez

El Modena School District

DINNER BREAK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Alyssa Mireles

California LULAC Deputy State Director

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Supervisor Vianey Lopez

District 5, Ventura County

STATE DIRECTOR TO DELIVER STATE OF

CALIFORNIA LULAC REMARKS

CA LULAC AWARDS

Man | Woman | Young Man | Young Woman

Council of the Year

**CLOSING REMARKS AND RECOGNITION TO
DOMINGO GARCIA, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL LULAC**

GALA AWARDS DINNER

GUEST SPEAKERS



**Attorney General
Rob Bonta**

On April 23, 2021, Rob Bonta was sworn in as the 34th Attorney General of the State of California, the first person of Filipino descent to occupy the position. Attorney General Bonta's passion for justice and fairness was instilled in him by his parents, who served on the frontlines of some of America's most important social justice movements. It's why he decided to become a lawyer – to help right historic wrongs and fight for people who have been harmed. He worked his way through college and graduated with honors from Yale University and attended Yale Law School. Attorney General Bonta has led statewide fights for racial, economic, and environmental justice and worked to further the rights of immigrant families, renters, and working Californians. He previously worked as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, served as an Alameda Council Member and represented Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro as a Member of the California State Assembly.

As the People's Attorney, he sees seeking accountability from those who abuse their power and harm others as one of the most important functions of the job. He has taken on powerful interests and advanced systemic change – pursuing corporate accountability, standing up for workers, punishing big polluters, and fighting racial injustice. Attorney General Bonta is the son of a proud native Filipino mother and a father who taught him the value of public service to his community. He is married to Mia Bonta, and they are the proud parents of three children Reina, Iliana, and Andres.



**Supervisor Vianey
Lopez**
*Ventura County
District 5*

Supervisor Lopez was appointed to represent the 5th District on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors by Governor Newsom in September of 2022. Vianey has over ten years of experience in public service. She was elected to the Hueneme Elementary School District Board in 2012, where she served for six years. As a school board member, she advocated for increased parent involvement and the dual language immersion program. In 2018 she was elected to the Oxnard City Council representing District 6 and was re-elected to a four-year term in 2020, which she served until her appointment to the Board of Supervisors. She was the District Director for California State Senator Monique Limón and then-Assembly member Limón, from 2016-2022. Before joining the State office, she served as District Scheduler and District Director for former Congresswoman Lois Capps in Santa Barbara.

In 2022 she was recognized by the Central Coast Labor Council as the Working Families Champion for her work during the COVID-19 Pandemic to establish a grocery worker gratitude pay program in the City of Oxnard, volunteering at food distributions, and working on local tenant protection and rent control ordinances. Supervisor Lopez is committed to ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for working families and youth in Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

Vianey was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. at the age of 4. Oxnard has been home to her since then, having attended schools locally. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University and a Master's in Public Policy from Pepperdine University.



MENDEZ vs WESTMINSTER HISTORY OF ALL 5 FAMILIES

CA LULAC RECOGNITION OF ALL 5 FAMILIES WHO STOOD TOGETHER TO CHANGE HISTORY

Placing the Et al. back in Mendez v. Westminster

"et al" is a latin phrase use to show that there are more names of equal importance

In March of 1945, five families in Orange County, California, brought a class action lawsuit against four school districts on behalf of their own children and five thousand other children who were forced to attend segregated schools for Mexican children. The lawsuit was filed as Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al. Frank and Irene Palomino were part of the founders of the first LULAC Council in California, Santa Ana LULAC # 147.



Arthur Palomino (third row, second from left) at the Fremont Mexican School in Santa Ana. Arthur's father, Frank, was one of the plaintiffs in the Mendez, et al. v. Westminster School District of Orange County, et al case. (Courtesy of the Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections Archives, Leatherby Libraries at Chapman University)

Families/Parents	Children	School District
William and Virginia Guzman	Billy Guzman	Santa Ana
Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez	Sylvia, Geronimo, Gonzalo Mendez, Jr	Westminster
Thomas and Mary Luisa Estrada	Clara, Syria, Roberto, Francisco, Daniel, Evelina Estrada	Westminster
Frank and Irene Palomino	Artur, Sally Palomino	Garden Grove
Lorenzo and Josefina Ramirez	Ignacio, Silveno, Joe Ramirez	El Modena

The landmark case
-- Mendez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al. --
 led to the end of segregation in California schools in 1947 -- nearly seven years before the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education decision that declared unconstitutional the racial segregation of public schools.



CALLING ALL LULACS—

(Continued from Page 9)

Appeals on the 9th day of December, 1946 at San Francisco. I am confident that it is not necessary for me to plead or even to urge members of our organization, regardless of where they may be to support and join in the fight against those who would deprive our children of an education and who so ill-treat and humiliate them without provocation other than that they happen to have been born with a Latinized name and whose parents trace their ancestry to Mexico.

Since March 2, 1945 when this action was filed in the U. S. Dist. Court for the Southern Dist. of California and up to the present time there has been expended by council for plaintiff's, (Us—Appellees in present appeal) a total of approximately \$800.00, this sum represents costs exclusive of services of Counsel. This sum has been paid by contributions from various persons and groups and has been gathered almost entirely through the efforts of Brother Lulacs, members of Council 147 of Santa Ana, California.

The defendant School Board has already served notice that if a judgment favorable to

plaintiffs is rendered they will definitely appeal and we in turn are equally determined to appeal if the decision goes against us. It is evident therefore that in any event this case will inevitably reach the Supreme Court of the United States. The tremendous importance of a favorable decision rendered in our behalf by the highest court in the land cannot be overly emphasized and it obviates the necessity of explaining why every member of Lulac is duty bound to support this cause to the limit of their ability. The responsibility of EVERY man and woman in our organization becomes clear and none of us should suffer the burden to be placed upon the California councils alone, even though they would willingly shoulder it but of necessity would be forced to ask other groups for help.

Fellow Lulacs, even though a comparatively new addition to our beloved organization I feel that I can say that never in the history of Lulac has the call to arms been more urgent or for a more worthy cause and I should like to feel that when this fight is over each of us shall have

(Continued on Page 15)

NEWS

Page Eleven

In December 1946 edition of LULAC News, "Calling All LULACS," an appeal was made to the membership for contributions to assist paying for expenses for the court case; and "Message from the President General,



LORENZO AND JOSEFINA RAMIREZ

CHILDREN - IGNACIO, SILVINO, JOE RAMIREZ

El Modena School District

www.lulacnewsletters.com

Lorenzo Ramirez (August 10, 1910 – February 20, 1966) in 1923 with family paid entry settled in El Modena of Orange County, Ca. he would be enrolled into Lincoln elementary's first grade at the age of 13. He was allowed to move to the new Roosevelt school not knowing segregation had begun. His uncles and grandfather would help build Roosevelt. Lorenzo would meet and marry Josefina Soto in October 1932. Employed by David Hewes Citrus in El Modena, promoted was offered housing at Murphy Ranch in Whittier, Ca in 1935. Lorenzo in 1942 was asked to run the Bracero program, 1943 was active in exposing discrimination being used against the Mexican, he would accompany Attorney General of Mexico Ezequiel Padilla to hearings held in San Francisco.

In 1944 Lorenzo moved family north to Gilroy, two months later moving back to El Modena attempted to enroll his three sons into what was considered the white American school house. He explained his children only spoke English. Unimpressed the Principal insisted there was not enough desk, Lorenzo was forced to enroll his boys Ignacio, Silverio (Silvino), Joe into the segregated Mexican only Lincoln Elementary school house which were separated by a 120-yard playground. Lorenzo believed in the importance of education and in equal rights of all individuals.

With the guidance of Mexican consul attorney David C. Marcus, he joined this class action as Ramirez et.al. v. El Modena with four other Orange County families to file suit to end the segregation of Mexican school children in the Mendez et.al. v. Westminster et.al. court case, fighting for the rights of all children in California to receive an equal education. This resulted in state-wide desegregation of schools in 1947. In 1953 Lorenzo would become the president of "El Latin American League". A periodical written in 1967 El Political article title Lider of Lider's author writes "at a young age Lorenzo decided to make himself available to whomever needed help". Mr. Ramirez was also heavily involved in the El Modena community throughout his life; he was a church leader at La Purisima Catholic Church, founded La Sociedad Progresista, was treasurer of La Logia Progresisita No. 43. In 1957 Lorenzo was elected vice president of the Laborers Local 652 in Santa Ana. He would hold onto the position until his death.



Photos of the Ramirez plaintiffs in the case: Ignacio, Silverio, and Jose.



Learn more including reading
the full court transcripts

Visit: mendezetalvwestminster.com
or scan the barcode



THOMAS AND MARY LUISA ESTRADA

CHILDREN – CLARA, SYRIA, ROBERTO, FRANCISCO, DANIEL, EVELINA ESTRADA

Westminster School District

Thomas Estrada was born in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico on January 10, 1910 and passed away just one month short of his 101st birthday in December 2010. His mother died at a young age and he experienced great hardships after her passing. His father later remarried and relocated the family to the United States to seek better opportunities like many others. In 1929 Thomas married Mary Luisa Estrada and together they had six children; Clara, Roberto, Francisco, Syria, Daniel and Evelina Estrada.

Mary Luisa Estrada was born in Anaheim, California on June 21, 1911 and passed on October 1, 1996. For the most part she stayed home to care for her children, but for a short period during the war she worked in a factory riveting airplanes. Thomas and Mary Luisa held strong Christian beliefs. Thomas would walk his children to the local Christian church every Sunday, however Mary Luisa would stay back to clean house and prepare caldo de res (beef stew) every Sunday as a special dinner for the family.

During World War II Thomas served as an Air Raid Warden. He was responsible for reporting incidents, protecting people during air raids and providing Air Raid Precaution advice to the public in his designated area. Thomas was employed as a water truck driver at an ammunition dump also known as an ammunition supply point which was a military storage facility for live ammunition and explosives during World War II. This was a hazardous occupation. He later purchased his first delivery truck to begin distribution of goods. As his business grew he was able to expand and purchase more trucks to employ other family members.

Like the other parents involved in Mendez et al v. Westminster, Thomas was passionate and driven to bring an end to the segregation of schools in California. Together they joined forces so their children could be afforded the same opportunities, basic human rights and equal education as the children at the white only schools. Being part of this extraordinary achievement in history is one of the greatest accomplishments for the Estrada Family.



Thomas Estrada



Clara, Daniel and Syria Estrada



*Thomas Estrada & his grandson,
Victor Estrada*

WILLIAM AND VIRGINA GUZMAN

SON - BILLY GUZMAN

Santa Ana School District



My name is Beverly Guzman-Gallegos. I am the proud daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Guzman. My mother was born in Santa Ana and my father in Chino, California. They married and raised a family in Santa Ana. My parents became involved In September of 1944 when my brother Billy was denied enrollment at Franklin Elementary.

My father was William Guzman. He worked for Consolidated Air in San Diego during WWII while the family remained in Santa Ana. My brother Billy entered kindergarten at Fremont Elementary School in Santa Ana in 1942. My parents then tried to enroll him in Franklin Elementary (all-white school) the following year, but he was turned away because he was Mexican and had a Spanish surname. In addition, the school board gerrymandered the school district lines forcing Mexicans to attend Fremont by saying we lived within the Fremont boundaries. We lived closer to Franklin, and my mom wanted Billy to attend this school because it was more convenient for her to walk him to and from

school. Franklin was also the better school.

My father went to complain at the School Board asking why his son was denied enrollment. They said, that there were boundaries that were being enforced by Superintendent Henderson. My father hired Attorney Charles Martin to represent him at an upcoming school board meeting that was being held to discuss new guidelines. After the meeting attorney Martin had a private discussion with the board and they decided that Billy could attend Franklin, but my parents had already agreed to keep Billy home and wait for St. Anne's Catholic School to start enrollment. Shortly after my father began attending meetings at Viegas Mortuary. Many Latino leaders attended, and many issues were discussed. The main topic was segregated schools. Mom and Dad were asked to represent Santa Ana and it's 14 school districts. They were told it was going to be a class-action lawsuit. There were five families involved Guzman, Palomino, Ramirez, Mendez and Estrada. Many signatures were needed to file a petition. Eventually, a complaint was filed on March 2, 1945. My parents would be so proud to know that they made a difference and they proved that with faith and hard work, you can make a difference



FRANK AND IRENE PALOMINO

CHILDREN – ARTUR AND SALLY PALOMINO

Garden Grove School District



In 1945, Frank Palomino and his wife were one of five families who filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of 5,000 Mexican American students in Orange County, California. The case known today as Mendez et al v. Westminster et al. The Palomino's would file the class action lawsuit on behalf of their son and daughter, Arthur and Sally Palomino, against the Garden Grove Elementary Schools District. Mr. Palomino testified in court about his children stating, "I want to raise them as good Americans, if they give us a chance."

The Palominos in conjunction with the other four families, the Mendez, the Guzman, the Estrada and the Ramirez families would file a joint lawsuit against Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and El Modena school districts. In 1946, the Federal District Court in Los Angeles, would find that school segregation of Mexican-American children in Orange County, California violated their 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause, later affirmed by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The case would induce desegregation in Orange County schools consequently followed by state integration of all public schools in the State of California. The legal precedent would later be cited by Attorneys Gus Garcia and Carlos Cadena, in the United States Supreme Court, Hernandez v. Texas (1954).

Frank Palomino was a League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) charter member of Santa Ana No. 147.



GONZALO AND FELICITAS MENDEZ

DAUGHTER - SYLVIA, GERONIMO, GONZALO MENDEZ, JR

Westminster School District

In 1944, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez tried to enroll their children in the local Westminster School District but were denied. The Mendez children were denied enrollment to White schools due to the color of their skin and Hispanic surname.

The Mendez family (father Gonzalo, mother Felicitas, sons Gonzalo Jr. and Jerome and daughter Sylvia) moved from Santa Ana, where they owned a cafe, to Westminster, where they leased a ranch from the Munemitsu, a Japanese family who was being interned at Poston, Ariz.

When Gonzalo was told his children were barred from the 17th Street School, he talked with the superintendent and then went to the Orange County School District. They rejected his requests that his children be allowed to enroll.

In 1945, Mr. Mendez and four other Mexican-American fathers filed a lawsuit in the federal court of Los Angeles against four Orange County school districts on behalf of nearly 5,000 Hispanic-American school children. It would take two years for their victory, but was later affirmed in 1947 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of Mendez and the others. The Mendez v. Westminster case set an important precedent for ending segregation in the United States as it paved the way for the Brown v. Board of Education case.





CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF
UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS
**2024 STATE
CONVENTION RULES**

SUNDAY BREAKFAST | APRIL 27TH, 2024 | 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
TIDES BALLROOM BC

STATE ASSEMBLY | TIDES BALLROOM A

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the State Director to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Timekeeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by roll call standup vote, show of hands, or secret ballot. In a roll call vote the head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor. The Rules Committee may recommend the voting procedures and the State Assembly may approve.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any election.
7. Voting by absentee shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of three councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be recorded by the three Official Counters.

10. Each candidate shall have three minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 51% majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take, per Robert's Rules of Order (revised), a two-thirds vote to overturn all rulings made by the Legal Advisor.
13. The elections shall be: State Director; Deputy State Director; Deputy State Director for the Elderly; Deputy State Director for Women; Deputy State Director for Young Adults, Deputy State Director for Youth, State Treasurer, 2025 Convention Site.
14. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitution Amendments shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment with three speakers for and three speakers against.
15. All resolutions must be in written form and submitted by the local council in good standing and provided no later than Thursday April 24 at 8pm so copies can be made. The Resolutions Committee shall read the "whereas" portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to ten minutes with two speakers for and two speakers against. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question. They can be emailed to Info@calulac.org
16. Resolutions from the floor will only be accepted if the Assembly votes in favor of accepting them. Although this has been done in the past, the National LULAC Bylaws and Constitution make no mention of this process. There has been a growing concern among members that this process of resolutions from the floor does not give members sufficient time to research the topic and make an informed decision.
17. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws and Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order. 18. These adopted Convention rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



**75TH ANNUAL
CA LULAC CONVENTION**

75TH ANNUAL CA LULAC CONVENTION



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