



5th Annual
CSU YOUNG MALES OF COLOR
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2024
PROGRAM



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
YOUNG MALES OF COLOR
CONSORTIUM

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WELCOME TO THE 5TH ANNUAL CSU YMOC CONFERENCE

STRENGTH IN SOLIDARITY: COLLECTIVELY ELEVATING THE VOICES, EXPERIENCES & CONDITIONS OF MEN OF COLOR

We are excited to welcome you to the 5th Annual California State University Young Males of Color Conference! This year's theme, **Strength in Solidarity: Collectively Elevating the Voices, Experiences & Conditions of Men of Color**, reflects our deep commitment to collaboration and community engagement. As we unite representatives from our 23 campuses, we also celebrate our growing partnerships with community colleges. Together, we are committed to driving impactful changes in higher education.

This conference offers an invaluable opportunity for us to enhance our collective efforts, strengthen relationships, and align our objectives. It creates a space to share innovative practices that reshape the narrative around the educational experiences of young men of color. The data underscores the urgent need to address access, retention, transfer, and graduation rates for Black, Latina/o/x, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American men. We aim to highlight evidence-based practices that will equip practitioners to provide students with practical tools for their success.

Every campus plays a vital role in advancing the goals of the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium. We acknowledge and commend the transformative initiatives taking place across our institutions and aim to celebrate these achievements throughout the conference. By deepening our understanding of the challenges faced by young men of color and sharing best practices adopted by campuses to support them, we can continue working toward a more equitable educational environment.

As we mark this fifth annual gathering, our mission remains clear: to educate, empower, and engage those dedicated to this critical work while also inspiring the students whose futures we aim to impact. Our workshops and keynote sessions are designed to enlighten, empower, and be transformative for everyone involved.

We look forward to the rich discussions and meaningful connections that will emerge during this event. Thank you for your ongoing support of the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium. Let's amplify our voices and create sustainable change together for the students we serve.

In community,



William Franklin, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator

CSU Young Males of Color Consortium



Matthew Smith, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator

CSU Young Males of Color Consortium



Jesse Enriquez, Ph.D.

Associate Director

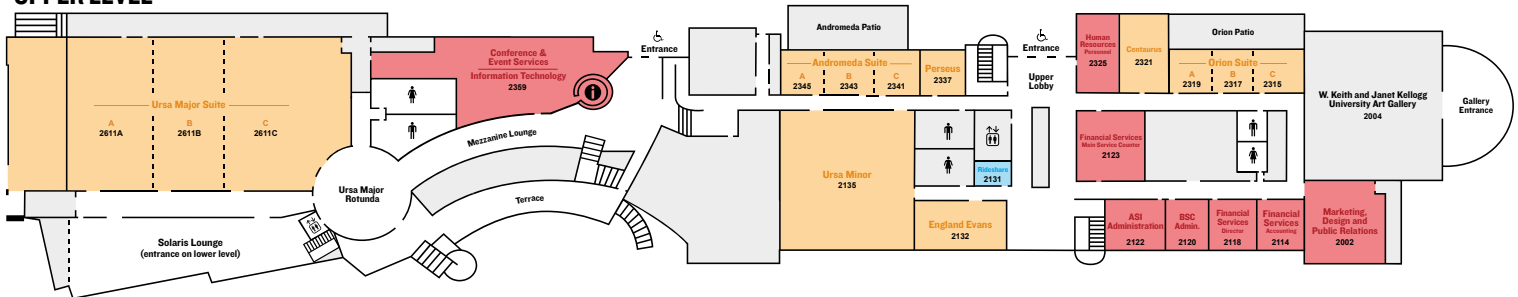
CSU Young Males of Color Consortium



CAL POLY POMONA BRONCO STUDENT CENTER MAP

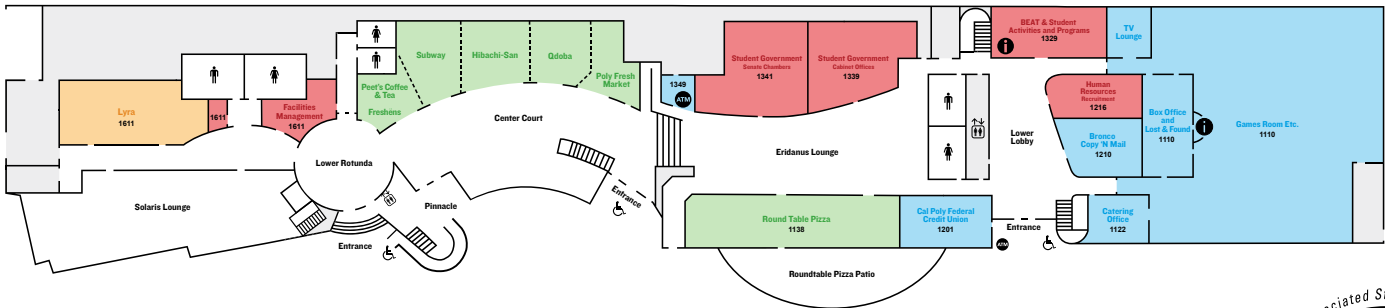
BRONCO STUDENT CENTER BLDG. 35

UPPER LEVEL



NORTH →

LOWER LEVEL



KEY

- Accessible Door
- ATM
- Information
- Elevator
- Women's Restroom
- Men's Restroom

*To reserve space, please contact
ASI Conference & Event Services at (909) 869-2847



SCHEDULE

Sheraton Fairplex Suites & Conference Center

601 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768

Cal Poly Pomona, Bronco Student Center

3801 W Temple Ave, Pomona, CA 91768

Thursday, November 14, 2024 – Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Registration Open	
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions	Various
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Opening Plenary	California Ballroom
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Reception	Outdoor Lawn

Friday, November 15, 2024 – Cal Poly Pomona, Bronco Student Center

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration Open	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Building 26 Courtyard
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Opening Session	Ursa Major
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Breakout Session I	Various
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Building 26 Courtyard
1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Breakout Session II	Various
2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Networking Mixer/Poster Session or Breakout Session III	Various
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Ursa Major
3:30 p.m.	Forum Closed	



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JOE LOUIS HERNANDEZ, PH.D.

Joe Louis' diverse professional and personal experiences have uniquely positioned him as a leader in higher education. He co-founded Rise Scholars at Rio Hondo College and currently serves as the Director of Rising Scholars at Mt. San Antonio College. With extensive expertise in developing programs for formerly incarcerated students, Joe has gained a deep understanding of the often-overlooked student populations that receive minimal support throughout the higher education pipeline.

Drawing from his own journey as a person in recovery and a former inmate, Joe's research centers on the strengths of individuals who have experienced incarceration. He explores how they can transform their survival skills into thriving capabilities, ultimately being recognized as "Streetwise Scholars." As a Streetwise Scholar himself, he passionately advocates for students, leveraging his lived experiences to inform his role as a pragmatic scholar-practitioner.

Joe Louis Hernandez, Ph.D., is a proud Angelino, having grown up throughout Los Angeles County. He graduated from Mt. San Antonio College and holds a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Services from California State University, Los Angeles. Additionally, he earned a master's degree in counseling focusing on Student Development in Higher Education from California State University, Long Beach. He completed his Ph.D. in Education at Claremont Graduate University, emphasizing Higher Education and Student Affairs.



PLENARY SPEAKERS



JADEN BAKER

California State University, Fresno
Undergraduate Sophomore,
Political Science Major



JOSE GUILLEN

California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
Undergraduate Senior, Psychology



JESUS LEO SORIA

El Camino College
Undergraduate Sophomore, Business
Administration



JOVIN JUSTICE ADAMOS

California State University, Fullerton
Undergraduate Senior; Human Services with a
concentration in Mental Health & Ethnic Studies
with an emphasis in Asian American Studies



PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

We Got You: Launching and Sustaining a Success Pipeline for Young Males of Color

Increasing attention has illuminated the importance of a sense of belonging, particularly for young males of color. At CSU Bakersfield, the Excel Scholars program fosters student success by emphasizing this sense of belonging. This pre-conference session will discuss the program's development and its unwavering commitment to supporting males of color intentionally and unapologetically.

Location: Napa Room | **Presenters:** Dr. Markel Quarles, Natasha Harris, EJ Callahan, California State University, Bakersfield

Re-Imagining How We Serve Men of Color: A Cohort-Based Approach to Serving Men of Color

Cal Poly Pomona's (CPP) Division of Student Affairs created the Male Success Initiatives (MSI) to address systemic equity issues that make it difficult for men of color to succeed at CPP. Male Success Initiatives (MSI) stands with men of color of all races, creeds, sexual orientations, abilities, and other intersectional identities at CPP. Through holistic and culturally relevant programming, cross-campus interdepartmental support networks, and innovative services, we strive to close the gaps in retention and graduation rates among men of color. Utilizing high-impact best practices of student cohorts, MSI has developed six unique cohorts that speak to our students' academic and cultural relevancy. This workshop will detail the rationale, ethos, structure, and aspirations of four of our established cohorts: Transfer Success, Black Men of Excellence, Latino Men of Excellence, and APIDA Men of Excellence. MSI's professional and student staff will showcase how these cohorts originated, the challenges they experienced, current programs and services, and ways we are moving forward. Participants will get first-hand knowledge of how to create their cohort programming models, and ideas to support men of color.

Location: Sonoma 1 | **Presenters:** Joel Gutierrez, Steve Lin, Kenneth Partner, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

Cultivating Strategies for College Men of Color

The National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC) with Community College Equity Assessment Lab's (CCEAL) conducted a needs assessment survey with its national consortium members to identify areas to advance outcomes for college men of color. CCEAL helps community colleges assess challenges to equity-centered institutional effectiveness, as well as develop problem-solving strategies and solutions. This session will provide an overview of findings from of a needs assessment survey that was designed to better understand institutional support and programming for college men of color.

Location: Sonoma 3 | **Presenters:** Melissa Abeyta, Frank Harris III, Danielle Huddlestun
Community College Equity Assessment Lab



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION I | 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Professional Track

CSU YMOC 101

This session will introduce participants to the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium. It will provide an overview of the consortium's historical context, current partnerships, initiatives, and future directions. Leadership from the consortium will emphasize the urgent need for this statewide initiative, tailored to the unique challenges faced by young men of color. Participants will learn about effective strategies designed to support their success and foster a more inclusive academic environment.

Location: Ursa Major | **Presenters:** Dr. William Franklin, Dr. Matthew Smith, Dr. Jesse Enriquez, California State University Young Males of Color Consortium

Come for the Snacks; Stay for the Brotherhood

This session will showcase the unique partnership model between IYT U and Sacramento State, highlighting a program designed to support the success of young men of color through comprehensive services, including intrusive mentoring, social and academic support, community building, paid summer internships, and access to emergency grants.

Location: Library 1802 | **Presenter:** Jeff Towey, Improve Your Tomorrow Sacramento State

Developing and Sustaining Effective Male Success Initiatives

As enrollment patterns for men of color in higher education continue to fluctuate, the need for tailored support becomes increasingly critical. This session aims to equip attendees with insights into the unique needs of men of color on their campuses and practical strategies for developing and sustaining impactful male success initiatives. Participants will gain an understanding of how to structure programs that foster long-term student success and create lasting, positive outcomes for men of color in higher education.

Location: Library 1808 | **Presenters:** Dr. Eligio Martinez Jr., California Polytechnic University, Pomona, CSU YMOC Senior Research Associate; Dr. Derrick Brooms, Morehouse College, CSU YMOC Senior Research Associate

Equitable Institutional Responses Centering Men of Color Success at Community Colleges

This session highlights efforts from innovative colleges that aim to support men of color across the country. Come learn college's innovative approaches to serving men of color. This session is guided by the following questions: What is the current status of MOC work at community colleges nationally? How do institutions align their priorities to meet the needs of and foster success for men of color? What can be learned from institutions that are advancing innovative solutions to close equity gaps for MOC at community colleges?

Location: Library 1822 | **Presenters:** Dr. Wilmon Christian III & Dr. Minh Tran, USC Race and Equity Center



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION I | 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Student Track

Validating My Knowledge, My Expertise Through Community Cultural Wealth: Latino Males Preparing for College

Drawing from Tara Yosso's Community Cultural Wealth Model (CCW), the presenters will address the knowledge, skills, and abilities transferable into post-secondary education and career choice. Presenters will address the cultural capital of Latina/o/x students and its utility in navigating their education and career aspirations.

Location: Andromeda | **Presenter:** Dr. Anthony Villarreal, San Diego State University

Power of Storytelling: Leveraging Your Story for Professional Success

Explore the transformative power of storytelling in professional settings. This workshop empowers college students to craft and share their personal narratives, demonstrating how to leverage their unique experiences for career growth and professional success. Students will gain the tools to leverage their unique narratives to build connections, resonate with employers, and enhance their career trajectory.

Location: Orion | **Presenter:** Michaela Edwards, Improve Your Tomorrow

Unlock Your Potential: Build a Winning Resume

America promises opportunities for all, but many first-generation and low-income college students struggle to land strong jobs after graduation. This workshop empowers you to overcome these challenges by mastering the art of resume writing. Learn to create a powerful first impression, unlock your potential, and secure your path to success.

Location: England Evans | **Presenter:** Diana Phuong, Braven

Undocu(men)ted: Personal Narratives of Navigating Legal Barriers and Gender Expectations in Pursuit of Higher Education

Already besieged by legal barriers, do undocumented male college students face gender expectations that hinder their pursuit of higher education? Join this student panel to explore the gendered pressures and constraints that undocumented students must face both in university settings and at home.

Location: Lyra | **Presenter:** Jairo Leon, California State University, San Bernardino



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION II | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM

Professional Track

Cultivating the Soil: Supporting Formerly Incarcerated Men of Color Scholars

Participants will understand how to transition from an institutional agent to a Concrete Gardener. By becoming Concrete Gardeners, participants will learn to stand in solidarity with formerly incarcerated males of color so they may bloom to their full capacity. The workshop will provide findings on cultivating the soil to help formerly incarcerated men of color accomplish their educational goals.

Location: Ursa Major | **Presenter:** Dr. Joe Louis Hernandez, Mt. San Antonio College

Mattering and Asian American Pacific Islander Male College Students

Traditionally, AAPI communities have had little infrastructure to support struggling API men in that mental health treatment is stigmatized and silenced. As such, API men do not have the tools or strategies to deal with their mental health struggles. Ultimately, they do not feel like their issues matter or that they matter. How can college campuses do a better job of creating a sense of belonging for our AAPI male students? What does mattering look for AAPI male students? How do we show care? In this session, participants will examine these questions and learn best practices for increasing student belonging.

Location: Library 1802 | **Presenter:** Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan, San Diego State University

Supporting Men of Color in the Classroom

This presentation will share the approaches successful faculty from Region X took in teaching and supporting men of color in the learning environment. The session will provide participants with practical tools for teaching and for staff to support and advocate for students in the classroom through a Men of Color program.

Location: Library 1808 | **Presenters:** Dr. Keith Turner, Ronnie Hands, Victor Brown, Dr. Steven Baissa, Southwestern College

Grinding All My Life: The Role of a Community College Men of Color Program in Supporting Masculine Identity Exploration

This session will explore how staff at a California community college's Men of Color program foster environments for exploring masculine identity. Key findings highlight the creation of inclusive spaces, open discussions on masculinity, mentorship, and addressing systemic challenges, emphasizing the importance of supportive environments for men of color in higher education.

Location: Library 1822 | **Presenter:** Dr. Rohan Desai, Pasadena City College



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION II | 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM

Student Track

Claiming Cultural Wealth: Applying to Graduate School and Beyond

Creating pathways for professional opportunity post-graduation means addressing the hidden curriculum that has created barriers for men of color. Presenters will incorporate the Community Cultural Wealth model in supporting attendees to envision a culturally informed future full of opportunity.

Location: Andromeda | **Presenters:** Nevan Bell, David Gudiel, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Secure the Bag: Navigating College Financial Aid for Males of Color

Students can reduce the costs of a college education by creating a College Financial Aid Plan. In this session, students will receive guidance on reviewing and understanding their financial aid packages, crafting a personalized financial aid plan, and exploring strategies to enhance their chances of securing scholarship awards.

Location: Orion | **Presenters:** Ernie Rios, Luis Rojas, Jose Chicas, Ricardo Ramirez, OneFuture Coachella Valley; Elias Hernandez, Juan Sibrian, Rogelio Lopez, California State University, San Bernardino College Corps

Big Auntie Energy: Support and Solidarity Among Women of Color and Men of Color

Young men of color often experience challenges in building community and connections on college campuses. We talk about the community found amongst one another, but the family connection to women is rarely discussed. This presentation will discuss how YMOC has found connections and support from women of color.

Location: England Evans | **Presenters:** Dr. Cookie Garret, LaRon McCoy, California State University, East Bay

How to Market Yourself for the Future

This workshop is designed to empower young men of color by addressing current trends and insecurities in the job market for recent college graduates. Participants will gain valuable insights into the challenges they may face and the skills needed to navigate the evolving employment landscape. We are committed to providing a range of resources and strategies tailored specifically for college students, ensuring they emerge as competitive applicants. By fostering a supportive environment, this workshop aims to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary for successful job searches and career advancement in today's competitive job market.

Location: Lyra | **Presenters:** Jonathan Soloman, Dr. Christina Lunceford, Azusa Pacific University



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION III | 2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

Student Track

From the Community College to the Ph.D.: Using Cultural and Social Capitals to Navigate and Negotiate the Community College to the Ph.D. Pipeline

This session will explore the unique journeys of men of color who have progressed from community college to earn Ph.D. degrees, focusing on strategies and resources that helped them reach this significant academic milestone. Participants will gain insights into leveraging the knowledge, skills, and networks cultivated at community colleges to successfully navigate the academic landscape from community college to doctoral completion.

Location: Andromeda | **Presenter:** Dr. Jose Del Real Viramontes, University of California, Riverside

Remixing Manhood: Unpacking Masculinity, Binaries, and Norms

This interactive workshop will unpack ideas of masculinity and gendered norms. Through various activities and discussions, we will explore how gender can be dynamic, expansive, fluid, expressive, and change over time rather than fixed. The goal is to challenge and expand traditional gender ideologies—like what it means to be a “man”—and recognize the diversity of gender identities. We hope you leave the workshop with ideas and tools to create more welcoming, vulnerable, and inclusive relationships and spaces.

Location: Orion | **Presenters:** Dr. Uriel Serrano, University of Southern California; Anibal Serrano, University of California, Irvine

Navigate Your College Journey to Get the Job You Want

Most YMOC attend college to get a good job, but the challenge arises when 41% to 73% of recent graduates are unemployed or underemployed (jobs that do not require a degree). This session will help YMOC to better understand the college experience to get the job they want.

Location: Lyra | **Presenter:** Gregg Simmons, California State University, San Marcos



POSTER SESSIONS

Networking Mixer/Poster Session is in Ursa Minor during SESSION III
2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

Belongingness Matters: Examining the Experiences of Men of Color in Higher Education

Alvaro A. Gonzalez-Lovillo, Cal Poly Pomona

Black Identity Development Theory for Student Mentoring and Programming

Dr. Brandon Gamble, Cal State University San Bernardino

Cal Poly Pomona's Male Success Initiatives: An Examination of Programs and Services

Cal Poly Pomona MSI Staff

Empowering Voices: Perspectives and Experiences of Latino and Black Men in Minority-Serving Institutions Male Success Initiatives

Dr. Reggie Robles, Rio Hondo College

Empowering Young Black Males: Strategies for Success

Gerrel Sayles, LA Promise Fund

Excel Scholars Program: Empowering Success for Young Males of Color

Natasha Harris, California State University, Bakersfield

Insights Into a Men of Color Cohort Program Model

Nevan Bell, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Our Brotherhood/Sisterhood MSI-Fullerton

Rodney Anderson, California State University, Fullerton

Queering and Transforming Our Masculinity and Relationship to Love

David Gudiel, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo



YMOC CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIO

Dr. Melissa Abeyta is the Director of the National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC). As a practitioner-scholar her research revolves around using an anti-deficit lens that explores the experiences of formerly incarcerated students in higher education. Dr. Abeyta was awarded the Ron Jacobs Outstanding Research Award for her study, *A Phenomenological Study of Formerly Incarcerated Latino Men in California Community Colleges*. Most recently was awarded the Community College Research and Scholarship Award from the NASPA Community College Division. She also served as the inaugural co-chair for the NASPA Formerly Incarcerated Students & System Impacted Families Knowledge Community.

Dr. Steven Baissa has been the Dean of Counseling at Southwestern College district for 3 years and in various leadership & faculty roles within higher education for the past 27 years. He is on the core leadership team currently leading the implementation of guided pathways at the college and supporting work focused on addressing equity gaps for Men of Color.

Nevan Bell is a master's student studying Higher Education Counseling and Student Affairs at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and completed his bachelor's degree at California State University, Monterey Bay. He currently works with the Men of Color Success Initiatives (MOCSI) Program a part of the Cal Poly Men and Masculinities Center. Additionally, he finds joy in participating in communal research with Men of Color and program assessment as well. He hopes to take his experiences and the research he participates in with him for his next steps in a PhD program.

Dr. Derrick R. Brooms is the Executive Director of the Black Men's Research Institute and Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College; he is also a Senior Research Associate for the CSU YMOC Consortium and serves as a youth worker as well. His research primarily focuses on the lived experiences of Black boys and men, including their pathways to and through college, as well as Black and Latino men's college experiences.

Victor Brown currently serves as the Student Success Coach of the Men of Color Success and Excellence department at Southwestern College. For years, his passion has been to help disadvantaged youth obtain resources and reach their full potential in realizing their dreams. Victor is also a volunteer executive leader of a men's group serving formerly incarcerated men. He is an alumnus of UCSD and has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

EJ Callahan is the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Student-centered Enterprises Inc. at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). EJ's responsibilities include the University Student Union, Campus Recreation and Wellbeing, Student Housing and Residence Life, Campus Programming, and the Children's Center. EJ has spent 25 years in higher education helping students achieve their academic goals. His experience includes working with equity programs to ensure first-generation, low-income students have access to higher education, serving as the lead administrator for student involvement and leadership development programs, and engaging in initiatives to retain and graduate young men of color.



YMOC CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIO

Jose Chicas is a counselor for OneFuture Coachella Valley's Gents Alliance Program at the College of the Desert. As an alumnus of OneFuture's scholarship program, Mr. Chicas participated in the Gents Alliance Program and is now helping to develop regional strategies to support the next generation of male students pursuing postsecondary education. He is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Doctor Wilmon A. Christian III is the Director of Workplace Equity at the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center. His career in higher education has included various roles, spanning areas such as student access and success, large interdisciplinary projects focused on boys and men of color, and other racial diversity initiatives. He is a 2020-2021 recipient of the USC Rossier School of Education Dissertation of the Year Award for his doctoral research on the workplace experiences of Black postsecondary employees. His scholarship includes several book chapters and articles about racial equity in higher education.

José Del Real Viramontes is an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Administration and Policy Program at the School of Education at the University of California, Riverside. His research examines the transfer policies, practices, and programming four-year universities apply to limit/eliminate institutional/structural barriers Latinx students face during the transfer process, how Latinx community college students develop their agency and use their cultural and social capitals to navigate the community college to four-year university transfer process, and the campus culture for Latinx community college transfer students at four-year universities by looking at the relationship between race and space and the intersectional identities with which Latinx community college transfer students identify.

Dr. Rohan Desai is a first-generation college graduate from Los Angeles with immigrant parents from Fiji and India. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Cal Poly Pomona, an M.S. in Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy from Cal State LA, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC, where he researched Men of Color programs and masculine identity. With over 14 years of experience in higher education, he is a tenured counselor and Department Chair at Pasadena City College, where he coordinates Men of Color Action Network and serves formerly incarcerated students. He is also the President-Elect of the statewide MOCAN.

Michaela Edwards is the Director of College Access and Completion at Improve Your Tomorrow (IYT), dedicated to increasing the number of young men of color attending and graduating from college. She is a senior fellow of the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program (NELP), serves on the board at 916 Ink, and was honored as one of the 2024 Exceptional Women of Color (EWOC). Michaela holds a BA and a Master's and is pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Sacramento State University.

Dr. Jesse Enriquez serves as the Associate Director of the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium, where he leads initiatives to address the unique challenges faced by young men of color across the CSU system. He earned his Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, San Diego, where he was awarded the prestigious UC President's Pre-Fellowship. His research focuses on enhancing transfer pathways for community college students of color, particularly Latina/o/x students, men of color, and student-parents. Dr. Enriquez has taught at multiple CSU campuses, most recently at CSU Channel Islands, near his hometown Oxnard, California.



YMOC CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIO

Dr. William Franklin holds a Ph.D. in Psychological Studies in Education with a specialization in Child and Adolescent Development from Stanford University. He currently serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs at California State University, Dominguez Hills, where he has successfully secured over \$50 million in federal, corporate, and private grants to develop innovative student success initiatives aimed at supporting low-income, first-generation students. He is also the founder and principal investigator of the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium, a strategic systemwide initiative aimed at tackling the unique challenges young men of color encounter in their postsecondary journeys while implementing effective strategies to support and empower their success.

Dr. Brandon Gamble received his training in psychology from Oakwood College for his bachelor's degree, San Diego State for his master's degree, and the University of Southern California is where he earned his doctoral degree in Educational Psychology. Gamble's written work and research has focused on African American youth's and young adult's social capital and familial support networks that empower young people to succeed in academics. He has been an educational psychologist, professor, and now is the Director for the Office of Black Student Success at Cal State University San Bernardino.

Dr. Cookie Garrett (She|Her|Queen) affectionately known as Queen Dr. Cookie or Dr. Auntie is the Director of the Diversity and Inclusion Student Affinity and Resource Centers (DISARC) at CSU East Bay. Dr. Auntie believes that the best way to support students is to serve with humility, guide with grace, and lead with love. You can often find her in the Centers vibing with students, encouraging, laughing, or Auntie in, whichever is necessary.

David Gudiel is a passionate advocate for positive change in higher education and a proud alumnus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, holding degrees in Psychology and Comparative Ethnic Studies. He shares his life with his cherished pug/poodle mix, Coco, and finds solace and inspiration in being active outdoors, dancing, and expressing himself through various forms of art. Currently, he is the Coordinator of the Men & Masculinities Center at Cal Poly SLO. In his role, he remains committed to fostering inclusive dialogues, empowering individuals to redefine healthier models of masculinity, and building a more equitable and compassionate future.

Joel Gutierrez (he/him/his) is the inaugural Senior Director for Cultural & Identity Initiatives. Joel comes to Cal Poly Pomona with 20 years of combined direct and macro experience in student affairs, community-based advocacy, and therapeutic settings. He is a skilled practitioner that brings ample experience in organizational management, community development, student development, and campus partnerships. He previously worked at Loyola Marymount University as the Associate Director of Student Involvement and previously as the Director of Chicano Latino Student Services. Joel also served as the Assistant Director of Intercultural Affairs at Occidental College and the Assistant Director of Leadership Experience and Programs at Whittier College.

Ronnie Hands has over eighteen years' leadership experience in education. He currently serves as the Dean of Student Engagement and Completion at Southwestern College where he is responsible for multiple student services departments. Mr. Hands holds an AA degree in Sociology from Mesa College, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from CSUSM, and a Master of Business from Ashford University.



YMOC CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIO

Natasha Harris Driven by personal challenges growing up, Natasha is passionate about helping young people succeed, which inspired her career in higher education. With over 15 years of service at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), she is the Director of Special Programs and Student Retention Initiatives, overseeing critical programs like the Excel Scholars - Young Men of Color, the expansion of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Black Student Success Center. Natasha actively serves on various university and community committees and is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Bakersfield Alumnae Chapter. Natasha lives by the belief embodied in Nelson Mandela's quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Dr. Frank Harris III is a professor of postsecondary education and co-director of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego State University (SDSU). He has also served as SDSU's faculty athletics representative since 2021. From 2022-2024 he served as associate dean of Diversity Equity and Inclusion in SDSU's College of Education. Dr. Harris is best known for his expertise in racial equity in postsecondary education and has made important contributions to knowledge about college student development and the social construction of gender and race in college contexts. His work prioritizes populations that have been historically underrepresented and underserved in education.

Elias Hernandez Mancilla is the College Corps Coordinator at CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus. In his role, Mr. Hernandez is helping students gain valuable work-based experience, in addition to earning up to \$10,000 in state grants. Mr. Hernandez is a graduate of College of the Desert and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Latin American/Latino Studies, along with a minor in Education, from the UC Santa Cruz.

Danielle Huddlestun (she/her/hers) is a student in the Joint Doctoral Program with San Diego State University and Claremont Graduate University. She identifies as a first-generation college graduate. Danielle's work experience as an academic advisor, as well as an interest in interrogating her own experiences as a student, sparked Danielle's passion for educational research. Through her work, Danielle's aim is to foster democratic and liberatory school communities for students. Her research interests include access to support for minoritized student populations and students navigating academic difficulty. She is also interested in the impact of academic policies within higher education spaces.

Jairo Leon (he/him/his) serves as Director of the Undocumented Student Success Center at California State University San Bernardino. He is committed to supporting and increasing services for undocumented students within academic and community settings. Jairo is an alumnus of California's three postsecondary systems, having graduated from Palomar College, California State University San Marcos, and UCLA. Jairo believes all students should have access to higher education regardless of immigration status.



YMOC CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIO

Steve Lin is a Senior Coordinator with the Male Success Initiatives at Cal Poly Pomona. In this role, he is an instructor for the Project Success program class, manages the Sophomore Success program, and has been tasked with launching the first ever Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Men of Excellence program. Steve grew up in Port Clinton, Ohio, graduated from Hampshire College with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies, and then earned a Masters of Education in Student Affairs from UCLA. Over the past 20 years, he has been dedicated to fostering the leadership and identity development of high school and college students with Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, the Posse Foundation, LeaderShape, Organization for Chinese Americans (OCA), and as a student affairs professional at UCLA and University of Michigan-Ann Arbor to name a few.

Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan is the inaugural Executive Director for AANAPISI Affairs and the inaugural Director of the APIDA Center at SDSU. Previously, she was a faculty member in SDSU's College of Education where she directed the Liberal Studies program, led teaching credential programs, and more. She's a former K-8 classroom teacher and has authored over 450 children's books. She is also the Co-Executive Director of The Asian American Education Project.

Rogelio Lopez is a College Corps fellow at CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus. In his role at OneFuture Coachella Valley, Mr. Lopez assists Gents Alliance high school students in developing their college and career plans, including completing scholarship and financial aid applications. He is a graduate of College of the Desert and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Psychology at CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus.

Joe Louis, PhD, is a proud Angelino, having grown up throughout Los Angeles County. He graduated from Mt. San Antonio College and holds a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Services from California State University, Los Angeles. Additionally, he earned a master's degree in counseling focusing on Student Development in Higher Education from California State University, Long Beach. He completed his Ph.D. in Education at Claremont Graduate University, emphasizing Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Christina Lunceford, PhD, is program director and associate professor for the MS in College Counseling and Student Development program at Azusa Pacific University. She worked in student affairs administration in new student programs, student leadership development, intercultural relations, diversity and equity, student-athlete services, academic advising, college access programs, and residential education and services. She is a consultant with Maumee City School District, OH for building equity and inclusion. Lunceford has taught in graduate preparation programs at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), California State University Fullerton (CSUF), California State University Long Beach, and University of the Western Cape in South Africa.



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Eligio Martinez Jr. is an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership Department at Cal Poly Pomona. For the past five years, he has served as a Senior Research Associate with the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium working with CSU campus partners to develop and grow male success initiatives. His research focuses on the experiences of men of color throughout the education pipeline. Dr. Martinez is also a research affiliate with Project MALES at UT, Austin where he is part of a national research collaborative focused on men of color. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Martinez served as the coordinator for the Men of Color Mentoring Program at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, TX.

LaRon McCoy (he/him/his) is the Lead Coordinator in The Diversity and Inclusion Student Affinity and Resource Centers (DISARC). An Oakland native, LaRon gives back to his community through coaching high school track and field. He works to build strong athletes AND create individuals who become positive contributors to society as lifelong learners. LaRon has a passion for giving back to the communities that have given so much to him.

Kenneth Partner began working in education over 18 years ago as a Math teacher and transitioned to working with the Math and Science Upward Bound Program at CSU Los Angeles as its program coordinator. Following his time at CSULA, Kenneth joined Cal Poly Pomona and the Renaissance Scholars program as its educational counselor in the Fall of 2013. With a desire to help students in the STEM Fields Kenneth then transitioned to working as an Engineering Advisor at Cal Poly Pomona during the Spring of 2015. In the Spring of 2023, Kenneth joined Male Success Initiatives at Cal Poly Pomona to support Male Students of Color achieve their academic and personal goals.

Diana Phuong As the Executive Director at Braven, Diana Phuong leads a team of passionate and talented professionals who are dedicated to empowering diverse, homegrown college students with the skills, networks, confidence, and experiences needed to break down systemic barriers and pursue meaningful careers and lives. Diana brings over eight years of experience in senior leadership roles within the education and nonprofit sectors. Throughout her career, Diana has delivered hundreds of high-quality training sessions for both adults and youth, provided thought leadership to facilitate efficient systems-level change through data analysis, and effectively managed multiple marketing channels to elevate company branding and drive revenue growth.

Dr. Markel Quarles has been focused on student success in higher education for 25 years serving in administrative, teaching, and student services capacities. Dr. Quarles is an American Council on Education Fellow, Executive Leadership Academy Fellow, and serves as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Student Services at California State University, Bakersfield. In his role, he provides leadership and oversight over a number of student engagement departments and programs. He earned his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees from California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo.



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Ricardo Ramirez is a counselor for OneFuture Coachella Valley's Gents Alliance Program at College of the Desert. An alumnus of OneFuture Coachella Valley's scholarship program, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management and Finance from CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus. Mr. Ramirez is currently pursuing his master's in business administration at the UC Riverside.

Ernie Rios is the Vice President of College Success at OneFuture Coachella Valley. He leads a regional scholarship initiative that has awarded over \$18 million to more than 3,000 students. Additionally, Mr. Rios helped launch a FAFSA completion campaign that has informed state policies and enabled students to access up to \$100 million in state and federal financial aid. He is a graduate of the College of the Desert, UC Los Angeles, and UC Riverside.

Reggie Robles holds a B.A. in Political Science from Cal Poly Pomona and an M.S. in Higher Education from CSU Fullerton. With over 10 years in higher education, he has worked in various areas, including housing, student conduct, and engagement. Reggie has expanded funding for first-generation programs, created nationally recognized initiatives, and developed co-curricular programs that offer certifications. He promotes social justice, lifelong learning, and leadership. An experienced presenter at national conferences, he recently completed a Ph.D. in Higher Education at Claremont Graduate University, focusing on successful programs for college men of color.

Luis Rojas is the Senior Project Coordinator at OneFuture Coachella Valley, where he oversees a regional scholarship and financial aid system designed to streamline access to local resources for students. Mr. Rojas earned an Associate of Arts degree from the College of the Desert and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus.

Anibal Serrano (he/él) is from South Central Los Angeles, a first-generation scholar, an alumnus of Dorsey High School, and a two-time California State University system graduate. He is the son of working-class immigrants from Durango, Mexico. Anibal is a political science doctoral candidate at UC Irvine within the subfields of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (REP) and International Relations. He aspires to be a professor to support and empower students of color through his research, pedagogy, and mentorship. Anibal is passionate about building and sustaining communities of care. His work focuses on understanding how youth navigate violence in their day-to-day. Anibal loves anything peanut butter and enjoys sharing meals with his friends and family.

Uriel Serrano is a youth worker, educator, and sociologist from South Central Los Angeles. He earned a PhD in Sociology and Ethnic Studies and is currently a Community Power Postdoctoral Scholar at USC. In his research, he utilizes a mixed-methods data-building process to rigorously document Black and non-Black Latinx youth's contemporary experiences with policing, their efforts at decriminalization, and their place in Los Angeles. Uriel is an avid wrestling fan, a self-proclaimed quesadilla expert, Duke's favorite human, and a Cal State LA graduate. You can learn more about Uriel's teaching, youth work, and research at urielserrano.com.



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Juan Michael Sibrian is a College Corps fellow at CSU San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus, where he supports OneFuture Coachella Valley in developing resources for the Gents Alliance program, aimed at guiding students to success in college, career, and life. A graduate of College of the Desert, Juan is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems and Technology.

Gregg D. Simmons has over 25 years of professional work experience in career services, specializing in Employer Engagement, and in human resources management as a Corporate Recruiter. Mr. Simmons is currently the Executive Director for Hire Ethics – Career and Employment Consulting firm. Mr. Simmons holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and a master's degree in Counseling. He is completing his Ph.D. at San Diego State University and Claremont Graduate University, with his research focused on examining potential barriers and challenges in higher education for first-generation, racially minoritized college students to obtain meaningful employment upon graduation.

Dr. Matthew Smith currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at CSU Dominguez Hills, where he oversees nine Student Affairs departments designed to enhance student learning and development through co-curricular experiences. Additionally, Matthew currently serves as the Principal Investigator for the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium. The consortium is designed to create a network of leaders committed to sharing data and fostering shared knowledge and understanding in support of Young Men of Color.

Jonathan Soloman is a graduate student at Azusa Pacific University, pursuing a Master's in College Counseling and Student Development. Currently working at Mt. San Antonio College and Los Angeles Trade Tech, Jonathan is passionate about promoting equity and diversity in higher education. With a strong commitment to improving access to educational opportunities, he actively engages with his community to eliminate barriers and empower students. Through his work, Jonathan aims to create inclusive environments that support the academic and personal growth of all students, ensuring that everyone has the chance to succeed in their educational pursuits.

Jeff Towey is the Program Manager for IYT U at Sac State, the success center for young men of color at Sac State. As the Program Manager, Jeff is responsible for ensuring the young men in IYT-U receive the mentoring and support to help them graduate from Sac state. Jeff has served in the work of helping students of color go to and graduate from high school and college. He has been a teacher, intervention specialist, co-curricular coordinator, college counselor, and mentor. Jeff has been with IYT U since 2019 and their program currently serves over 120 students per year.

Doctor Minh Tran is the Director of Racial Equity Research Partnerships at the USC Race and Equity Center and a lecturer in the UCLA School of Education and Information Studies. For 20 years he has facilitated courses in conflict resolution, intercultural communication, and dialogue. His published research on hyper-masculinity and fraternity hazing among Asian American and Pacific Islander men has garnered coverage in the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education.



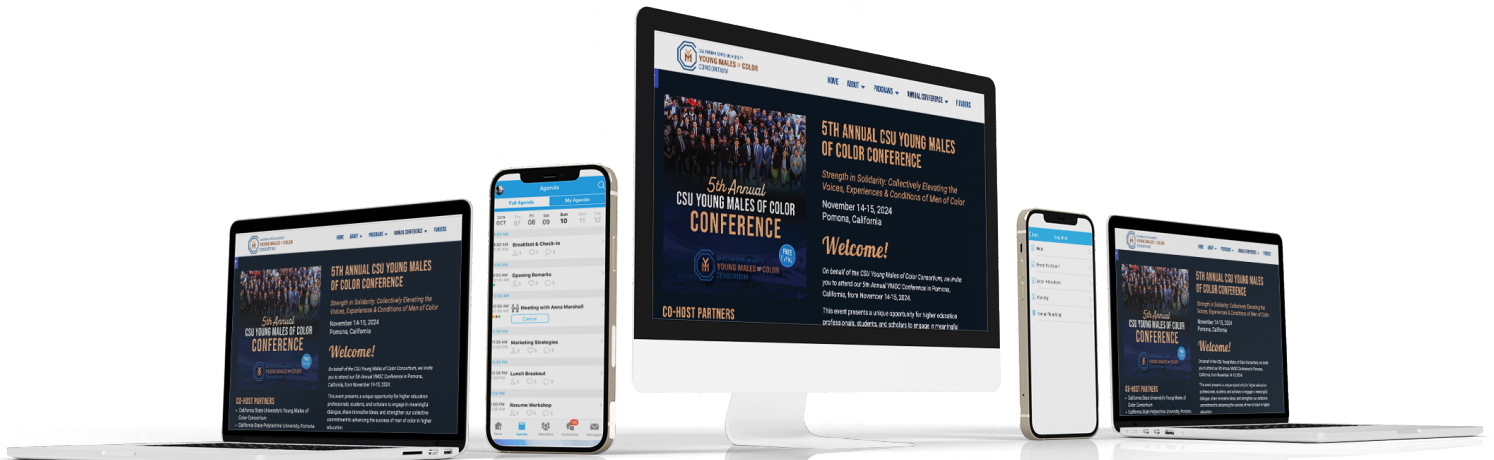
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Dr. Keith Turner currently serves at Southwestern College as the Director of Men of Color Success and Excellence. He has a proven record of directing successful programs and operations while incorporating an equity lens into his work. Dr. Turner holds an AA degree in Liberal Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and a Master of Business from the University of East London and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

Dr. Anthony Villarreal was born in Compton, CA, but grew up most of his life in Woodburn, Oregon. He is first in his family to earn a doctoral degree from Claremont Graduate University. His professional background includes two decades of experience as a bicultural/bilingual (Spanish) educator as a faculty counselor at local community colleges; in student affairs, college outreach and admissions at four-year universities; and as an educational leader in diverse K-12 schools in California and Oregon. He currently is the Latinx Faculty Scholar at SDSU, director of El Pueblo Scholars mentor program, and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses.



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