

DEI Stories and Quotes

This presentation includes leadership stories that can be used when speaking and presenting on the importance of California Community Colleges' system-wide diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and anti-racism work.

The stories featured in the slides below highlight individual perspectives and experiences from leadership, faculty and staff and students, and can be used as examples for guiding and gathering quotes from your own institutions. Remember: peer messengers are always your strongest and most compelling storytellers and advocates.

The slides are organized by engaged members of California Community Colleges' DEI efforts.

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CEOs



“I am committed to fixing systems, not students and I have attempted throughout my career to dismantle and re-imagine structures to better position our colleges to more effectively serve our students.”

- Ed Bush, Ph.D.
President, Cosumnes River College



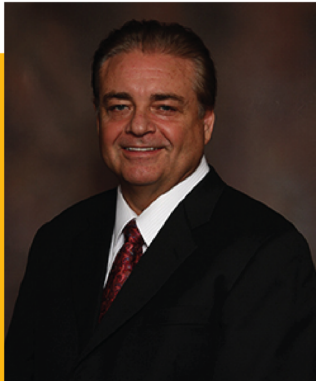
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“It is my belief that by furthering my own self-awareness, I am better able to effectively challenge the perspectives of others and lead this college in raising their awareness — guiding them to find the necessary solutions that will make our institution a premier example of an inclusive college community that values and supports all humans who come to our campus.”

- Daniel Walden, Ph.D.
President, Victor Valley College



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“I’ve learned that change is possible and it doesn't have to be slow. It just has to be focused and unwavering.”

- JoAnna Schilling, Ph.D.
President, Cypress College



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“My request is simple — for others to work in partnership with me and center their efforts on our students so they can thrive and realize their academic and career goals.”

- Rowena Tomaneng, Ph.D.
President, San Jose City College



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“My support systems are the faculty and staff of color, as well as staff and faculty allies who spoke up, engaged their colleagues and held folks accountable. Student leaders, particularly our Black Student Union and our African American staff and faculty group, were advocates in support of the resolution.”

- Julius Sokenu, Ed.D.
President, Moorpark College



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Human Resources Professionals

“Ultimately, it is all about the students and their success. Hiring the right faculty and staff is key to ensuring that students are provided with the best, safest and most inclusive learning environment possible.”

- Stacy Zuniga

Director of Human Resources, State Center Community College District



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“Change is difficult — but if not me, then who? My work is deeply rewarding but at times challenging. I want to continue to make a difference and push the needle. Our students need our support. They also need their faculty to look like them and to understand where they came from so they can continue to learn and be inspired, even when walls are raised in front of them.”

- Irma Ramos

Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, North Orange County Community College District



Trustees



“I am thrilled to see our faculty and employees responding to the call for Ethnic Studies — and creating space and opportunity to better educate our students on the rich history of the many cultures and people who contributed to the history of the US and California.”

- Linda S. Wah
Trustee, Pasadena City College



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“Change is hard in any organization. Especially long-term change in education. You can't change things overnight — you really have to secure buy-in from the campus community to achieve long-lasting change. Having faculty leaders who believe DEI is critical to overcoming these challenges (from a trustee perspective) is key. Hiring is an employee-driven process on our campus and we need their buy-in to overcome challenges.”

- Marisa Perez
Trustee, Cerritos College



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Academic Senate Leadership

“Through our Redesigning the Student Experience process, we were able to truly center equity and design cross-functional Student Success Teams to support our first-time college students that were disproportionately impacted.”

- Luke Lara, Ed.D.
Academic Senate President, MiraCosta College



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Student Services

“This familial environment is what our students need. They have to know we are an extension of their network. We are here to help them succeed and we embrace our role as a guide through any obstacle they are experiencing.”

- Cynthia Olivio, Ph.D.
Vice President, Student Services, Pasadena City College



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Student Leadership

“I think we really just need to push ourselves to keep going and continue to challenge our assumptions. Enter every conversation in a DEI-centered and student-centered way. We also need to expand our focus on the different student populations in our system in the next year in continuing to prioritize racial equity.”

- Katherine Squire
Student Senate Vice President



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