

Dr. José Del Real Viramontes

José Del Real Viramontes is an Assistant Professor, in the Higher Education Administration and Policy Program the School of Education at the University of California, Riverside. Prior to UCR, he was an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education/Community College Leadership Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Cultural Studies in Education from the University of Texas at Austin. As a former community college transfer student his research explores areas of the transfer experience for historically underserved and marginalized students, with a particular emphasis on Latina/o/x students who use the community college as a pathway to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

Dra. Marissa Vasquez

Dra. Marissa C. Vasquez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education (ARPE) at San Diego State University (SDSU) – a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). She also serves as the Director of the M.A. in Postsecondary Educational Leadership and Student Affairs Program. As a community college scholar, Dra. Vasquez uses an anti-deficit lens to understand the pre/post transitional experiences of community college and transfer students, particularly first-generation and racially minoritized communities. This includes interrogating the role of community colleges in fostering welcoming and inclusive campus environments for disproportionately impacted students.

Dra. Melissa Abeyta

Dr. Melissa Abeyta is a Visiting Assistant Professor at UNLV and the Director of the National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC) for CCEAL. 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's professional experience includes working for an equity assessment lab that conducted qualitative research and assessment for regional and national projects. Her research has been recognized as a model of transformation and change. Dr. Abeyta is committed to serving traditionally underrepresented students in higher education through research and policy.

Dr. Joe Louis Hernandez

Joe Louis' professional and personal experiences have led him to become a unique leader in higher education. He co-founded Rise Scholars at Rio Hondo College and Rising Scholars at Mt. San Antonio College, where he is currently the director. Being an addict in recovery and incarceration experiences led to his research focusing on the strengths of students who experienced incarceration and the transformation of their survival skills to thriving skills, to be seen as Streetwise Scholars. Joe Louis Hernandez, Ph.D., is an Angelino, having grown up throughout Los Angeles County. He graduated from Mt. San Antonio College and transferred to California State University, Los Angeles, where he earned a Bachelor's in Rehabilitation Services

and a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis on Student Development in Higher Education from California State University, Long Beach, and A Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University in education with an emphasis Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Dra. Cynthia Estrada

Dr. Cynthia Estrada is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). As a first-generation college graduate and Latina, Dr. Estrada brings a unique and critical perspective to her work, centering race and racism in her research to address issues of higher education access and equity for minoritized student populations. She is also a faculty affiliate for the CCHALES research collective, where she conducts work on racial and gender equity for Communities of Color within the community college system.

Dr. Estrada earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Race and Ethnic Studies within the Social Science and Comparative Education program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She holds a BA in English with a minor in Applied Psychology and Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Prior to UCLA, Cynthia earned her BA in English with a minor in Applied Psychology and Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Jeffrey Mayo

Jeffrey Mayo is the director of the First-Year Experience Office at The University of Texas at Austin. His work focuses on creating learning communities, student engagement opportunities, and mentorship for students to set a strong trajectory toward their academic and personal goals. His research interests have centered on transfer student socioacademic belonging, Latinx community college student success, and online education. Jeffrey earned his Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from UT Austin.