



Affordable Housing Strategies for California Community Colleges

Speaker Bios

(In order of participation)

Hon. Fiona Ma, CPA, Treasurer **State of California**

Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the State's history. 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 the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Her office processes more than \$2 trillion in payments within a typical year. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma also oversees an investment portfolio of more than \$125.4 billion, approximately \$34.6 billion of which are local government funds. She is responsible for \$93 billion in outstanding general obligation and lease revenue bonds of the state.

Treasurer Ma has been a licensed CPA in California since 1992 and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the Rochester Institute of Technology (NY), a Master's Degree in Taxation from Golden Gate University (SF), and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

Hon. Kevin McCarty, Assemblymember **State of California**

Kevin McCarty was elected to the California State Assembly in 2014 to represent the 7th Assembly District, which includes Sacramento, West Sacramento and parts of unincorporated Sacramento County. McCarty is the Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, which oversees the largest component of California’s multi-billion dollar budget. Over the last five years, McCarty has made historic investments in public education—from Pre-K to K-12 to higher education.

Other legislative priorities for Assemblymember McCarty include addressing housing affordability, fighting climate change, championing criminal justice reform, curbing gun violence, tackling the opioid crisis and advocating for the middle class.

A lifelong Sacramentan, McCarty began his public service career as a Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commissioner and served on the Sacramento City Council from 2004 to 2014. McCarty went to local public schools, attended American River College, and earned a B.A. in Political Science from CSU Long Beach and an M.A. in Public Policy and Administration from CSU Sacramento. McCarty and his wife live in the Elmhurst neighborhood of Sacramento with their twin daughters.

Like, follow, and connect with Assemblymember McCarty on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: [@AsmKevinMcCarty](#)



Hon. Steve Veres, District Director / Trustee

**District Director, Office of California State Senator María Elena Durazo
and Trustee, Los Angeles Community College District**

Steve Veres is the President of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees. He was first elected to the districtwide position in 2011. At LACCD, he chaired several Board committees including the District's Facilities and Institutional Effectiveness committee. He was the lead sponsor of the District's Award-winning Clean Energy and Sustainability Program and has presided over nearly \$4B in facility improvements throughout the District's 9 colleges.



With over 15 years of experience, in both policy and constituent service work in the legislature, Steve helped clean up and improve the Los Angeles River, expanded access to higher education, and helped secure funding to build 17 new parks in Los Angeles. In 2014, Steve helped negotiate the effort to triple California's Film and Television Tax Credit and make it more accountable to taxpayers. The bill was praised as one of the most significant steps to protect California's film industry jobs in the past 100 years. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and is currently Senator María Elena Durazo's Los Angeles Director.

He is appointed to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee. Steve's long record of public service includes elections to the San Fernando City Council, where he served as Mayor, and appointments to the Metropolitan Transit Authority's San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council as well as the Metropolitan Water District.

He has been an Instructor at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College and is a former public school teacher. A Los Angeles native, Steve attended Loyola High School and earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA. He was a graduate student and teaching assistant in UCLA's History department. Additionally, he worked as a journalist and news editor.

Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Legislative Advocate

Murdoch Walrath & Holmes / Community College Facility Coalition

Nancy Chaires Espinoza is a legislative advocate for education entities, with a focus on school facilities issues. She has decades of experience in the State advocacy sector, helping clients from small associations to large companies navigate the State budget, legislative, and regulatory processes.



The Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC) is a statewide coalition composed of community college districts, facility planners, architects, developers, financial institutions, attorneys and consultants. Our major purpose is to advocate for adequate State and local revenues for facility construction and to provide comprehensive information regarding community college construction and funding issues. CCFC has also been in the vanguard of the statewide bond campaign efforts since its inception. CCFC is operated by Murdoch, Walrath and Holmes.

Murdoch, Walrath and Holmes, is an advocacy and association management firm which has been instrumental in shaping statewide policy and implementing regulations for K-12 schools for almost five decades. Strategic relationships have been forged with the State Administration through agencies such as the Department of Education, the Office of Public School Construction, the State Allocation Board, and the Department of Finance; and, on the federal level, with key Congressional Members and the Executive Branch.

Katrina Johantgen, Executive Director **California School Finance Authority**

Katrina Johantgen has served as the Executive Director of the California School Finance Authority (CSFA) since 2000.

CSFA is a state agency charged with administering facility and working capital finance programs for California's K-12 educational agencies and community colleges. Under the direction of four State Treasurers, Ms. Johantgen has developed CSFA's best practices. CSFA has disbursed over \$4.3 billion dollars for school facilities and working capital needs.

In September 2020, CSFA approved the issuance of \$87 million in revenue bonds for the Santa Rosa Junior College Student Housing Project; sale of these bonds is anticipated in Spring 2021.

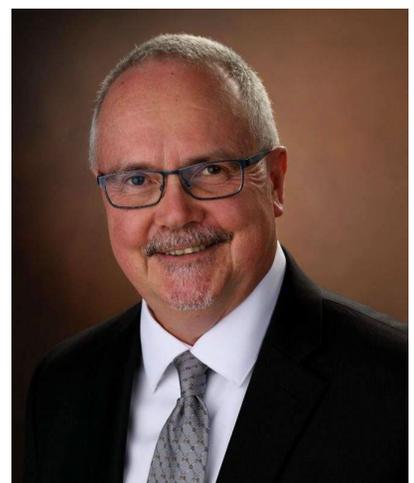
Ms. Johantgen earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Bob Parker, Assist. Superintendent/VP of Administrative Services **Napa Valley Community College**

Robert Parker has served as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Administrative Services at Napa Valley College since February of 2016. Previously, Robert served for 10 years as the Vice President, Administrative Services of San Diego Continuing Education, a division of the San Diego Community College District.

Robert holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Glassboro State College in New Jersey (now Rowan University), a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, and a Master's degree in accounting from San Diego State University.



Dr. Pedro Avila, VP of Student Services/Assistant Superintendent Santa Rosa Junior College

Dr. Pedro Avila was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of nine. Like many migrant families, his family experienced poverty and housing insecurity. He attended Fresno State University as a first-generation college student. He holds an MBA from Rockhurst University, a Certificate in Institutional Performance Assessment from Harvard's Higher Education Institute, and recently completed his Doctorate from the University of Maryland.



Dr. Avila has worked in the community college system for over 18 years. He has led several successful initiatives to increase college-going rates for underrepresented populations. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of Student Services for Santa Rosa Junior College.

In 2017, the Tubbs fires devastated Sonoma County, destroying homes and leaving many students homeless or facing housing insecurity. Since then, Dr. Avila has been a champion of the Santa Rosa Junior College student housing project.

Barbara Christensen, Director of Community and Government Relations (*ret.*)

San Mateo County Community College District

Barbara Christensen is the former Director of Community and Government Relations for the San Mateo County Community College District. During her tenure she shepherded through three faculty/staff housing developments: College Vista at College of San Mateo (opened in 2004); Canada Vista at Canada College (opened in 2010); and a fully entitled development at Skyline College named Skyline Ridge, which will be under construction in a few months.



Dorsey Moore, Executive Director / CEO

San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School

Dorsey Moore has been with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School since 2014. The organization provides young adults with a quality high school education that teaches valuable work and life skills; empowering them to become responsible, productive and caring citizens. Currently, SJCC & CS is implementing its “Youth Housing Promise,” for students to gain skills constructing affordable portable dwelling units (PDUs) that can be placed on campus or in the community to increase the supply of affordable student housing.

Mr. Moore also is a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (District 4), where he has served since 2012. The Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture, and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations.

Dorsey Moore received his MBA in Sustainable Management from the Presidio School of Management, a Certificate in Non-Profit/Public/Organizational Management from San Jose State University, and his Bachelor of Arts in Geology/Geography (Major) and Biology (Minor).

