



EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Institutions of Higher Education Engaging Communities

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

California State University, Monterey Bay—Chinatown Renewal Project

Dr. Dianne Harrison is president of California State University, Monterey Bay, a position she has held since 2006. Prior to her current tenure, she enjoyed a 30-year career at Florida State University, where she served in various capacities starting as a faculty member, dean of social work, associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of graduate studies, and vice president for academic quality and external programs. Her academic and research areas of expertise include HIV prevention among women and minority populations and higher education issues related to social work and university leadership.

Dr. Harrison has served on boards and committees of more than 65 national, state, and local organizations and community projects. Dr. Harrison currently serves as a board member of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, KQED, Inc., MoreHealth of Monterey County, and the United Way of Monterey County. She also serves on the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II presidents' council and is on the executive board for the California Campus Compact. She co-chairs the Monterey Bay Educational Consortium and is a leader in education with the Monterey County Business Council. She serves on the educational leadership boards of the Panetta Institute; the California State University (CSU) Council on Ocean Affairs, Science, and Technology; and CSU's Agricultural Research Initiative. She currently chairs the professional development committee and is convener for the women presidents and chancellors group of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She was a presidential participant in the Fulbright-Hayes seminars abroad program to Jordan and Oman. In 2011, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Dr. Harrison holds a Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, and a master's of social work and a bachelor's in American studies, both from the University of Alabama. A prolific researcher and writer, Dr. Harrison has published dozens of articles and two books.

Mr. Roy Lewis Harrison, Jr., (community participant) was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He found his way to Salinas, California, after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. He was living in a men's shelter when he joined the Green Corps job training program. He is currently the manager of the Chinatown Learning Center, which offers job and life skills training and computer literacy courses to the community. He is also a mentor and sober sponsor for four to six recovering alcoholics and drug addicted persons. He is pursuing a career interest in security and patrol services.





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California State University, Monterey Bay—Chinatown Renewal Project (continued)

Dr. Seth Pollack is professor of service learning and the founding faculty director of the Service Learning Institute at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). In 2005, he received the Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning. The award recognizes Dr. Pollack's contributions to institutionalizing service learning in higher education, especially with regard to integrating issues of diversity and social justice with community service programs.

In 2008–09, Dr. Pollack served as a Fulbright scholar in Cape Town, South Africa, where he worked with the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape to strengthen their service learning and community engagement programs. During his Fulbright year, Dr. Pollack examined the potential role for service learning to help higher education play a more active role in building the new, inclusive, post-apartheid South Africa. Prior to his work in higher education, Dr. Pollack spent 10 years working in international development in West Africa, South Asia, and Central America.

Dr. Pollack has a Ph.D. in international development and education from Stanford University and a master's degree in organizational sociology, also from Stanford.

Mr. Wayne Allen Ross, II, (community participant) is currently a full-time business administration student at Hartnell Community College in Salinas, California. He was a resident at a men's shelter when he joined the Green Corps job training program. He is currently a board member at the Victory Mission Shelter in Chinatown. He also serves as a mentor to at-risk youth through Monterey County Probation Department, Rancho Cielo, and Partners for Peace.

Campus Compact

Ms. Maureen F. Curley is president of Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents dedicated to advancing campus-based service, service-learning, and civic engagement. She has more than 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, concentrating in the areas of aging, community service, and public policy. Among other leadership positions, she has served as director of public policy for the Community Service Society of New York and as executive director of the Massachusetts Service Alliance, where she oversaw distribution of \$12 million in grants to support AmeriCorps community service-learning and mentoring programs. She also served as the chief relationship officer for Bridgestar, an initiative of The Bridgespan Group.

Ms. Curley serves on the board of governors of Antioch University and was co-chair of Governor Deval Patrick's Commonwealth Corps Commission. She has taught courses on nonprofit and volunteer management at Columbia University, New York University, and the University of Massachusetts–Boston. Ms. Curley holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Emmanuel College and a master's degree in human services administration from Antioch University New England.





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Corporation for National and Community Service

Mr. Robert Velasco, II, was designated acting chief executive officer (CEO) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) by President Obama on May 27, 2011. CNCS is the federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in results-driven service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

Mr. Velasco has more than a decade of experience managing large programs and complex organizations, and has the skills, judgment, and leadership ability to increase the effectiveness of national service. Prior to becoming CNCS's acting CEO, he served as chief operating officer and acting chief of program operations for CNCS. He has boosted efficiency, bolstered accountability, and fostered innovation, and has developed the infrastructure to carry out the Serve America Act and fulfill the President's vision for national service.

Prior to his tenure at CNCS, Mr. Velasco worked in management, program, and regional operations across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Most recently, he served as director of management operations within HHS's Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA). He was appointed as OMHA's first director of program operations where he built a national policy framework, led business transformation projects, advanced quality assurance and evaluation initiatives, and collaborated with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Social Security Administration and the HHS Departmental Appeals Board to improve case management efficiency.

Raritan Valley Community College

Dr. Casey Crabill is Raritan Valley Community College's (RVCC) seventh president. In this capacity, she oversees a \$44 million operating budget and a staff of 600 full- and part-time employees, including 116 full-time faculty members. Prior to joining RVCC, Dr. Crabill served as president of the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, California, from July 1999 to June 2006. She has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, also serving as acting president of Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut; acting president and dean of learning and student development at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Connecticut; and division chair for academic development and learning support at Dundalk Community College in Dundalk, Maryland.

Dr. Crabill received her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction and her master's degree in teaching English as a Second Language from the State University of New York at Albany, and her bachelor's degree in English from Skidmore College.





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St. Mary's University

Mr. Aaron Hanna joined the St. Mary's revitalization team as the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) program manager in August of 2010. As an active participant in all areas of the revitalization project, Mr. Hanna currently oversees the administration of NCR in conjunction with the City of San Antonio. NCR is a city initiated façade improvement program that supports existing business owners through technical assistance, access to city resources and façade improvement funds.

Mr. Hanna earned a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in urban planning and is nearing completion on a master's degree in business administration from St. Mary's University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Mary's.

Dr. Steven Nivin is director of the St. Mary's University Neighborhood Revitalization Project. He is also an assistant professor of economics at the university and serves as director and chief economist of the SABÉR Institute, a collaborative think tank of St. Mary's University and the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce focused on the research of issues related to and planning for the development of neighborhoods and regional economies.

Previously, Dr. Nivin was chief economist and industry development manager for the City of San Antonio. Along with creating the city's economic research unit, Dr. Nivin's expertise in economic development also helped attract and retain notable companies to San Antonio such as: Toyota, Microsoft, Maxim Integrated Products, First Health, Rackspace, Lowe's, and Sino-Swearingen. Additionally, he was integrally involved in the creation of strategic plans for the development of the creative and finance industries in San Antonio as well as the Westside Development Corporation.

Dr. Nivin received his Ph.D. and master's degree in political economy from the University of Texas at Dallas and his bachelor's degree in economics from Austin College.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Ms. Jean Lin Pao is the general deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of PD&R, which maintains current information on housing needs, market conditions, and existing programs, as well as conducts research on priority housing and community development issues.

Ms. Pao has also worked in HUD's Office of Departmental Operations and Coordination and Office of Field Policy and Management, gaining valuable departmental management experience leading efforts in HUD's management plan, quality management review program and oversight of HUD's 10 regional and 70 field offices across the country.

Ms. Pao holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Barnard College. She is also a senior fellow with the Council for Excellence in Government.

