



Press Release

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

No. 21-13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 2, 2021

PHOTOS ATTACHED

Contact: Chancellor's Office: (209) 575-6509, publicaffairs@yosemite.edu

Columbia College Presidential Finalists Named and Forums Announced

MODESTO, CA – The Columbia College Presidential Search Committee has selected five finalists in the search for the next President of Columbia College.

The finalists (with most recent position held) are listed below:

- **Nicole Albo-Lopez, Ed.D.**

(Interim Vice President, Student Services and Economic & Workforce Development, Los Angeles Harbor College – Los Angeles, CA)

- **Val Martinez Garcia, M.S.**

(Vice President of Student Services, West Hills College Lemoore – Lemoore, CA)

- **Joseph Piazza, Ed.D.**

(State Supervisor of Career and Technical Education, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Sacramento, CA)

- **Brian Sanders, Ed.D.**

(Vice President of Instruction, Columbia College – Sonora, CA)

- **Lena Tran, Ed.D.**

(Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Innovation, San Jose City College – San Jose, CA)

The search committee was chaired by Dr. G.H. Javaheripour, who currently serves as the Interim President of Columbia College. Initial interviews were completed and the names of the five finalists have been forwarded to Chancellor Henry Yong and the YCCD Board of Trustees.

Open forums for the finalists are scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021, and Friday, December 10, 2021, via Zoom. The forums will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, and 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Each finalist will be given an opportunity to discuss their preparation for the position, their education and leadership philosophy, concluding with a time to respond to questions from the forum attendees. The forums will be open to the public and can be accessed from the links provided below in the profiles.

The schedule for the candidate forums are as follows:

Thursday, December 9, 2021

9:00 a.m. Brian Sanders, Ed.D.

2:00 p.m. Val Martinez Garcia, M.S.

Friday, December 10, 2021

9:00 a.m. Joseph Piazza, Ed.D.

11:00 a.m. Nicole Albo-Lopez, Ed.D.

2:00 p.m. Lena Tran, Ed.D.

Finalist Profiles:



Nicole Albo-Lopez, Ed.D.

Forum date/time: December 10, 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Link to Forum: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93435114384>

Zoom Meeting ID: 934 3511 4384

Dr. Albo-Lopez is currently the Interim Vice President of Student Services, Economic & Workforce Development at Los Angeles Community College District. Her prior work experience at Los Angeles Community College District includes serving as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of Student Equity and Academic Affairs, and Dean of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development. She also has served as Interim Dean of Instruction, Associate Dean of Instruction & Institutional Integrity, Faculty Chair of the Clinical Dental Assisting Program and also Program Director of the Clinical Dental Assisting Program, all at Rio Salado College. Dr. Albo-Lopez holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, a Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) from Midwestern University, and a Certificate in Dental Assisting from Spokane Community College.



Val Martinez Garcia, M.S.

Forum date/time: December 9, 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Link to Forum: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91910117513>

Zoom Meeting ID: 919 1011 7513

Mr. Garcia is currently the Vice President of Student Services at West Hills College Lemoore. His previous work experience includes serving as Vice President of Student Services and Dean of Academic Affairs, both at Porterville College, Associate Dean of Instruction at Taft College, Director of the Kern County Campus at University of La Verne, and Director, GEAR UP at CSU, Bakersfield. Mr. Garcia is working towards an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne. He holds a Master of Science in School Counseling from the University of La Verne, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the University of La Verne, and an Associate of Arts degree in Sociology from Bakersfield College.



Joseph Piazza, Ed.D.

Forum date/time: December 10, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Link to Forum: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98736353191>

Zoom Meeting ID: 987 3635 3191

Dr. Piazza is currently the State Supervisor of Career and Technical Education at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. His previous work experience includes serving as Superintendent Principal at Courtyard Private School, Director of Child Welfare and Attendance at Yuba City Unified School District, at Folsom Cordova Unified School District he served as Coordinator of English Learner Services, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, and School Principal. Additionally, he was Managing Partner of ESP Consulting/Three Qualities Consulting. Dr. Piazza holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Claremont Graduate University, and a Bachelor of Science in Combined Sciences from Santa Clara University.



Brian Sanders, Ed.D.

Forum date/time: December 9, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Link to Forum: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91608677279>

Zoom Meeting ID: 916 0867 7279

Dr. Sanders is currently the Vice President of Instruction at Columbia College, where he has also served as Interim Vice President of College and Administrative Services. His previous work experience includes serving as Dean of Science, Mathematics and Engineering, and Professor of Mathematics both at Modesto Junior College, and Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics at Modesto Junior College, Skyline and the College of Notre Dame. Dr. Sanders holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Oregon, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences from University of California, Santa Barbara.



Lena Tran, Ed.D.

Forum date/time: December 10, 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Link to Forum: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/94716378348>

Zoom Meeting ID: 947 1637 8348

Dr. Tran is currently serving as Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Innovation at San Jose City College. Her prior work experience includes serving as Dean of Business and Workforce Development and Interim Dean of Social Science, Humanities, Arts, and Physical Education both at Evergreen Valley College. At the University of California Silicon Valley Extension, she was Director of three departments, Business and Management, Education, and Applied & Natural Sciences. She served as Employment Development Coach at San Jose One-stop/Institution for Business Performance, Co-Founder and Sales & Marketing Director for Viethome Magazine, Business Development Manager for Collabrys, and Business Development Manager at Realtech Systems. Dr. Tran holds an Ed.D. in Organizational and Leadership Development from the University of San Francisco, a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Entrepreneurship and Marketing from Seton Hall University, and a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Marketing from Montclair State University.

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