

# THE IDEA SUMMIT

IMPROVING DIVERSITY, EQUITY & ACCESS  
(IDEA) TO PUBLIC SECTOR CAREERS

## >> EVENT PROGRAM

Monday, October 21, 2024

Virtual Event • 1:00 - 5:00 pm



Hosted by:



In partnership with:



# Agenda

## Opening Remarks

*Erica L. Manuel*

*CEO and Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

## Featured Speaker Anthony Cordova

*In conversation with Erica L. Manuel*

## Building Inclusive Apprenticeships: Success Stories from the Public Sector

*Facilitated by Dr. Paul De La Cerda*

*Workforce Development Consultant, ILG and Principal/Founder, the Clover Agency*

## Changing the System: Innovative Public Sector Workforce Strategies

*Facilitated by Rafael Aguilera*

*Program Director, Apprenticeships and Workforce Development, ILG*

## Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Talent

*Facilitated by Erica L. Manuel*

## Partnering with Higher Education for Workforce Development

*Facilitated by Dr. Jeffrey Mrizek*

*Workforce Development Consultant, ILG and CEO, Mrizek Global*

## Legislative Update

*Aaron Avery*

*Director of State Legislative Affairs, California Special Districts Association*

## Closing Remarks



## FEATURED SPEAKER

# Anthony Cordova

*Vice Chancellor of Workforce and  
Economic Development*  
**California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office**

Born in Bakersfield, California, Anthony Cordova served three tours in the Navy during the Gulf War. Anthony worked in the private sector within the Engineering and Manufacturing Industry, commissioning three power plants including a 34 Megawatt Combined Heat Power Plant while earning his MBA.

Anthony started his higher education career as an adjunct instructor in the Industrial & Occupational Safety program at Taft College. Prior to accepting his current position of Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development, he was Dean of Instruction at Bakersfield College. He served on the Board of Directors for Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, serves as Vice President of the board for Valley Achievement Center (a nonprofit organization for autism), and is the former President Elect of California Community College Association for Occupational Education and former Chair for the California Community College bachelor's degree steering committee programs.

# Building Inclusive Apprenticeships

## *Success Stories from the Public Sector*



### **Channing T. Hawkins, Esq.**

*Director*

**Bracy Hawkins Law P.C.**

Channing T. Hawkins, Esq. is a distinguished attorney, entrepreneur, and committed public servant. Hawkins specializes in providing general counsel services to corporations, government entities, and nonprofits. In addition to his legal work, Hawkins has served as a trusted advisor to the California State Assembly, U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is the founder of IE Works, a program dedicated to nurturing the next generation of leaders in the water industry through specialized training and development initiatives.



### **Vinz Koller**

*Senior Strategist for Capacity Building*

**Social Policy Research Associates**

Vinz is a national expert on US career education and workforce policy and a thought leader in adapting a European dual-professional education system for the US. He has led technical assistance initiatives for the US Department of Labor, Education, and Housing and Urban Development related to equitable systems optimization and integration, leadership development, as well as inclusive apprenticeship and career pathway systems. Currently, Vinz is coaching several states in expanding their apprenticeship systems and supporting the California Youth Apprenticeship Committee in developing a plan to introduce youth apprenticeship at scale.



### **Laura Thompson**

*Strategic Business Consultant*

**Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS),  
California Department of Industrial Relations**

In her role as DAS Consultant, Laura imbues a long standing, deep institutional knowledge about public sector apprenticeships. She currently maintains a sizable public sector portfolio and is instrumental in the development and scaling of nontraditional apprenticeship throughout California, including some of the nation's "first-of-its-kind" programs.

# Changing the System

## *Innovative Public Sector Workforce Strategies*



### **Alegría De La Cruz**

*Director of Government & Community Relations*  
**Dolores Huerta Foundation**

Alegría De La Cruz is the Director of Community & Government Relations at the Dolores Huerta Foundation and the Political Director at the Dolores Huerta Action Fund. Prior to that, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed Alegría as the founding Director of the Sonoma County Office of Equity, where she worked to create systems and capacity to address unjust racialized outcomes throughout the County. She also served as a Chief Deputy in the Sonoma County Counsel's Office, and under Governor Jerry Brown as a lead prosecutor at the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and enforced farmworker labor rights. She also serves as a Board Trustee, representing Area 3, for the Santa Rosa City School District.



### **Parina Parikh**

*Associate Vice President, Workforce & Regional Economies*  
**Jobs for the Future (JFF)**

Parina Parikh leads JFF's presence in California, with responsibility for business development and fundraising, cultivating relationships and partnerships, and building workforce and inclusive economic development initiatives. Previously, Parikh was Vice President of Sector Initiatives at San Diego Workforce Partnership. She created and executed innovative workforce solutions across San Diego County overseeing a portfolio of over \$20 million across 25 funding streams.



### **James Regan**

*Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development*  
**California Government Operations Agency**

James Regan was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to Government Operations Agency in March 2023. Prior to his appointment, Regan served as the Assistant Deputy Director of Health Workforce Development at the Department of Health Care Access and Information where he helped manage a billion-dollar portfolio of programs to support and build the health workforce across California. He led several population health initiatives and COVID-19 response efforts with the California Department of Public Health. Prior to state service, he managed community-based health promotion efforts in California's Central Valley.

# Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Talent



## Kevin Daniel

*Workforce Development Project Manager*  
**City of Sacramento**

Kevin Daniel is a Sacramento native with over 30 years' experience working in workforce development and youth development. His experience includes working in public housing with Urban Strategies Inc, and for 14 years for Greater Sacramento Urban League as Vice President of Programs and Operations focusing on vocational training and workforce development for youth and adults. Kevin has developed multiple training programs for adults and youth, managed an American Job Center, written grants for several millions in funding and serves as the Co-Chair for My Brother's Keeper Sacramento.



## Deborah Moy, Ed.D

*Co-Founder and Senior Strategist*  
**California Transit Works!**

Dr. Deborah Moy pioneered the first longitudinal community-based participatory research project in public transit in 2005. Her scholar-practitioner work focuses on labor/management partnerships and frontline worker voice. These partnerships are the essential foundation for employers and unions to successfully design, build, and implement workforce development systems that empower frontline workers and enhance agency success. She is the Co-Founder and Senior Strategist for California Transit Works!, a consortium of 12 public transit High Road Training Partnerships funded by the California Workforce Development Board and the US-DOL/Employment and Training Administration.

# Partnering with Higher Education for Workforce Development



## **Ebony Joy Benzing**

*Director*

**North Far North Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research**

Ebony Joy Benzing is Co-Director of the North Far North Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (NFN COE). COEs provide regional workforce research customized for community college decision-making and career education program development. Ebony is also the author of the *Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Restoring Public Sector Employment in the Sacramento Region* report—developed in collaboration with ILG—which analyzes the key trends in public sector employment, with a particular focus on local government.



## **Dr. Amy Schulz**

*Executive Dean, Workforce & Strategic Initiatives*  
**Sierra College**

Dr. Amy Schulz is dedicated to solving workforce challenges to advance regional economic development to meet employer needs while empowering individuals to advance in their careers. Dr. Schulz is the Executive Dean of Workforce and Strategic Initiatives at Sierra College, and she previously served as the Dean of Career, Continuing & Technical Education at Sierra College. Through meaningful partnerships with employers, industry leaders, community organizations, and educational institutions, she leads development of training to address regional workforce gaps, enabling learners to gain the skills and connections necessary to thrive in high-demand, high-wage fields.



## **Wayne Wiley**

*Economic Development Manager*  
**City of Roseville**

Wayne Wiley has been with the City for 19 years, starting his career in the Planning Department before joining the Economic Development Department. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing economic development initiatives to ensure business enrichment in Roseville and the region. Wayne also serves as a Board Member on the Downtown Roseville Partnership, Business Improvement District where he supports downtown development initiatives and is the Co-Founder of the Roseville Venture Lab Entrepreneurship Center.

# Legislative Update



## Aaron Avery

*Director of State Legislative Affairs*  
**California Special Districts Association**

As Director of State Legislative Affairs for the California Special Districts Association, Aaron Avery oversees state legislative advocacy for the organization. CSDA's members include more than 1,000 special district local governments. Additionally, Aaron advocates for CSDA on labor and employment legislation, Surplus Land Act, and water policy. In his free time, Aaron serves on the board of directors of a statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization.

We extend our thanks to all the speakers for sharing their expertise today!

The IDEA Summit is hosted by the Institute for Local Government, in partnership with Innovative Pathways to Public Service. The event is made possible through support from the Workforce Accelerator Fund, High Road Training Partnership, James Irvine Foundation, and the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. Thank you to our affiliates: the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California Special Districts Association.