



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE LEAGUE
OF CALIFORNIA

2023
CEO SYMPOSIUM
RETIREE
RECOGNITION
DINNER



2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES

The Chief Executive Officers of California Community Colleges are proud to recognize and honor the following CEO retirees of 2023.

Lori Bennett
President, Clovis Community College

Frank Chong
Superintendent/President, Santa Rosa Junior College

Mike Claire
Chancellor, San Mateo County CCD

David Wain Coon
Superintendent/President, College of Marin

Debra Daniels
Superintendent/President, Taft College

Mary Gallagher
President, Los Angeles City College

Bob Kratochvil
President, Los Medanos College

Judy Miner
Chancellor, Foothill-De Anza CCD

JoAnna Schilling
President, Cypress College

Bill Scroggins
President & CEO, Mt. San Antonio College

2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES



Lori Bennett

Clovis Community College President

Retired January 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I am proud of establishing the organizational structure and new programs for a rapidly growing new college and building a reputation for excellence based on student equity and completion.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Be yourself. Focus on your strengths and use them to help you lead your college. When making decisions, always start by asking, “What is best for students?” Network and build relationships with other CEOs. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or guidance. Say “thank you” or “good job” to your team members and keep saying it often. Enjoy the journey.



Frank Chong

Santa Rosa Junior College

Superintendent/President

Retires June 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I am most proud that I left each of the three colleges where I served as the president stronger than when I arrived.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:

- Be self-confident, not self-important
- Define yourself or others will define you
- Lead with gratitude and compassion

2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES



Mike Claire

San Mateo County CCD Chancellor

Retiring June 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: As a college president, I was proud of rebuilding the organization in terms of people. I was the final decision maker on 70 percent of the full-time faculty and 100 percent of the administrators by the time I had transitioned to my role as chancellor in 2019. As chancellor, I am proud that I helped steer the District through a very difficult time, and that we have built a strong leadership team.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: It is not about you — it is about putting the students and the organization that you serve ahead of everything else. People are smart and they can see right through leaders that are not 100 percent committed to the institution. Also, there's such symbolism in being CEO/President — you have to be aware of that symbolism, but be careful not to lose your true self in the process.



David Wain Coon

College of Marin Superintendent/President

Retiring January 2024

Proudest Accomplishments: I am proud to have been at the helm of two colleges to be recognized with the prestigious Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award for improvement in student outcomes and diversifying the workforce; of the physical transformation of our campuses through the investment of \$515 million in improvements including the much needed and long awaited revitalization of the Indian Valley Campus; to have had the rare opportunity to hire over 70 percent of the full-time faculty during my tenure; and to have played a role in creating the LGBTQ+ Caucus.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Take the work seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously! Master the art of the "poker face" while in the board room. As soon as you know you didn't get it right, own it. Don't underestimate the power of humility.

2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES



Debra Daniels
Taft College Superintendent/President
Retired December 2022



Mary Gallagher
Los Angeles City College President
Retiring June 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I am most proud of the LACC Race, Equity & Social Justice Center established in Fall 2020 after George Floyd's murder. We have focused on learning and understanding how to practice equity inside and outside of the classroom. We have conducted cultural curriculum audits and this work continues; and we have adopted the "Simple Syllabus" and "Name Coach" for our faculty to improve the classroom environment.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Just be yourself! Do not take anything personally. Love your college and they will love you.

2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES



Bob Kratochvil
Los Medanos College President
Retired December 2022

Proudest Accomplishments: Any accomplishments were in partnership with the dedicated colleagues with whom I worked. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to collaborate with exceptional classified professionals, faculty, and administrators whose passion for teaching and learning was deeply aligned with the institution's focus on equity and student success. Our collective commitment was the driving force behind LMC's four consecutive Aspen Institute national recognitions as a leading community college.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Hire the right people – at all levels across the institution – who are committed to the mission of community colleges. Provide them with guidance and support, and empower and trust them to do their jobs effectively. Identify at least one person on your team whom you can depend on without reservation to always offer recommendations in the best interest of the institution and college community. And lean on the support and help from your spouse or partner and family as you navigate the important balance between work and personal life.



Judy Miner
Foothill-De Anza CCD Chancellor
Retiring September 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I'm most proud of anything that I have done at the individual or collective level that impacts student success and self-confidence. It has been a privilege to join forces with true believers at the local, regional, state and national levels who are passionate about closing the opportunity gaps that have plagued so many of our students for so many years.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:

- Attend as many events as possible even if for just a short time.
- Create space for coping with tragedy and grief.
- Create space for celebration.
- Surround yourself with those who are knowledgeable and truthful.

2023 CEO RETIREE HONOREES



JoAnna Schilling
Cypress College President
Retiring June 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I am most proud of the important DEIA work we've done, implementing three new centers to support students of color, expanding all-gender bathrooms, launching our Holocaust Memorial Gallery which honors local Holocaust survivors, implementing a program for formerly incarcerated students, increasing our diversity hiring to well above the state average, developing an anti-racism statement and a land acknowledgment, and being named an Equity Champion the past two years, as well as an Aspen Prize semi-finalist this year for the first time in our history.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Being a president takes stamina. Pace yourself and spend your energy on the things that really matter, such as your students and acknowledging the work your superheroes do in support of students.



Bill Scroggins
Mt. San Antonio College President & CEO
Retiring June 2023

Proudest Accomplishments: I am proud of the advancement of equitable student access and success by the leadership teams at the colleges and organizations of which I have been a part. I am proud of leading colleges through the Great Recession, and through the pandemic and resulting economic and social disruption. I am proud of the ability to maintain the campus as a safe, supportive and productive place at which students can study and employees can work.

Advice to New and Continuing CEOs: Hire talented people and then listen to them — try to be the last one to speak because one of your team will likely suggest the very solution you had in mind, or something even better! Be patient but persistent because change is a marathon, not a sprint. Maintain work/life balance, for others as well as for yourself and your family. Remember that more often we create our own stress, so let go and move on to the next challenge.

