



NORA VARGAS (06)

Board President

Southwestern Community College District

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A product of public schools, Nora Vargas has spent her life working to remove barriers for underserved communities through civic engagement, public policy, and community organizing. Ms. Vargas' passion to serve is driven by her desire to improve people's lives in her community. Most recently, she served as the Vice President of Community and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. At Planned Parenthood, Ms. Vargas and her team worked to increase access to safe, quality healthcare, and education for women and families across California.

Committed to community service, Ms. Vargas has served on numerous boards and commissions, locally and across the state of California. She serves as a Board member for California Women Lead and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and is an Advisory Board member for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) and Equality California. She was elected to the Southwestern Community College District Governing Board, currently the only public institution of higher education within San Diego's South County, where she was recently elected Board President by her peers. In that role, Ms. Vargas is accountable for monitoring and establishing fiscal priorities for the College's \$127.8 million budget as well as close to one billion dollars in bonds.

In 2015, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Ms. Vargas to serve on the 12-member California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS), making her the first Latina to be appointed in the board's history. Ms. Vargas served as Vice Chair of the Board Governance Committee, and as a member of the Investment, Audit & Risk Management and Compensation Committees. In that capacity, she was charged with securing the financial future of California's educators, providing retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for California's 933,410 prekindergarten through community college educators and their families. CalSTRS is the largest educator-only pension fund in the world and the second largest pension fund in the United States. The market value of the CalSTRS Investment Portfolio was approximately \$243.1 billion as of February 29, 2020.

For the last 25 years, Ms. Vargas has worked to drive positive change and serve her community through public service.

A 2006 LEAD San Diego graduate, Ms. Vargas is passionate about ensuring that marginalized voices are included in the public dialogue regarding important issues such as health access, energy, technology, consumer protection, the environment, civic engagement, pensions, and education. For more than two decades, she has worked to foster the next generation of young leaders by providing them the skills and resources they need to advocate for and build power in their communities.