Ken Barnes  
President & CEO | Options for All

Ken Barnes has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Options For All (OFA) since February 2020. Mr. Barnes is no stranger to OFA, as he gave his time as a volunteer in several capacities since 2014, including service on the finance and programs committees, as well as on the board of directors. For his outstanding efforts, he was named the 2019 “Volunteer of the Year” by the organization.

Prior to committing himself to the nonprofit space, Mr. Barnes owned and operated a public affairs and business development firm, specializing in issues management, strategic planning, and business turnaround services.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Relations from Columbia University and an M.B.A. from Philadelphia’s Drexel University. When he’s not working, you can find Mr. Barnes and his wife, Angela, exploring the world by bike, cooking meals for friends, and walking with their dog Tito. He is a 2020 graduate of LEAD’s Influence San Diego program.

Trevor Blair  
CEO | Blair Search Partners, LLC  
Boardmember | LEAD San Diego

A native of San Diego, Trevor has nearly 20 years of experience in executive search, recruiting and workforce development. He began his career with Manpower, a global provider of recruiting and HR solutions, and was initially based in Sydney. After 5 years with the Australian operation, he transferred back to the US for graduate school, and then rejoined Manpower in San Diego. After serving for several years as a Business Development Manager, he shifted focus to build the company’s workforce development and executive search practices. In this capacity, Trevor worked closely with nonprofit organizations to develop training and job placement programs for groups facing barriers to employment, such as youth, veterans and military spouses. He also helped secure private and public funding to back those programs. On the executive search front, Trevor built a significant practice at Manpower serving a range of clients in the public, nonprofit and corporate sectors. In 2016, he leveraged this experience to launch a new firm, Blair Search Partners, specializing in search engagements for nonprofit and public-sector clients. The company manages approximately 40 search engagements annually, two-thirds of which are at the executive and director level for clients such as the Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, MAAC and the San Diego Symphony. Trevor’s community engagement is centered on education and employment issues. Current board and committee positions include LEAD San Diego, Zero8hundred (formerly the Military Transition Support Project), the Barrio Logan College Institute, San Diego Rotary, San Diego Grantmakers, and Mission Driven Finance. Trevor is an avid endurance athlete, having competed in over 200 triathlons around the world. He is a 10-time Ironman finisher and 3-time Boston Marathon finisher. He holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania (summa cum laude), and an MBA from the University of Southern California.
Dominika Bukalova, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff | Office of Council President Georgette Gomez, District 9

Dominika Bukalova serves as chief of staff for Council President Georgette Gómez, where she works with her team to implement the Council President’s priorities and manage the operations of the office. Her professional experience includes working as a committee consultant, director of policy, and chief of staff in the offices of former Council President Sherri Lightner and former Councilmember Edward Harris at the City of San Diego. In these roles, she served as lead on a wide range of policy issues, including economic development, land use, and government affairs. Dominika began her public service at the City of San Diego as a research analyst in the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst providing fiscal and policy analysis to the City Council.

After graduating from The George Washington University with a bachelor’s degree in political science and international affairs, Dominika attended San Diego State University and earned a master’s degree in political science. Dominika holds a Ph.D. in leadership studies from the University of San Diego, where her doctoral research focused on the competencies that local government leaders need to effectively address on-the-job challenges.

Knight Campbell
Owner & CEO | Cairn Leadership Strategies

After graduating from the Naval Academy, Knight Campbell excelled in flight school, learning to pay attention to detail, manage fear, and confront risk with his team. Choosing to fly the mighty SH60, he led sailors on three deployments.

Mr. Campbell then went back to the Naval Academy earning master’s degrees in leadership from the University of Maryland and the Naval War College. More importantly, he had the honor of leading more than 700 Midshipmen. From tackling 24-hour crucible events alongside his people to teaching advanced leadership theory at the collegiate level, he left the tour with a burning passion for helping people reach their fullest potential as leaders.

In 2006, he and his wife, Leonie, decided to climb the highest point in every state – they have since conquered all but 10 of them! They found deep passion for the experience of climbing mountains. Seeing the limits of teaching leadership in a classroom, Mr. Campbell knew outdoor adventure would be a perfect place for leaders to challenge themselves and thrive. He started teaching rock climbing, hiking, and mountain biking for REI Outdoor School, and then he did a 30-day expedition in Alaska with the National Outdoor Leadership School to become an instructor. Seeing the need for experiential leadership development, he completed an Executive Leadership Coaching Certificate at Georgetown University. Mr. Campbell created Cairn Leadership to combine his passion for the journey in leadership and adventures in the wild. Now he guides leaders to the tops of the mountains you see on everyone else’s websites!

During an opportunity to teach women specific rock-climbing classes for REI, Mr. Campbell experienced firsthand the powerful dynamic of strength and support found in a group of women facing adversity. He and Leonie, a former combat Marine now medical student and President of Cairn Leadership, dove straight into women-specific events to harness the power of outdoor challenge for developing the authentic and courageous women leaders our world desperately needs.
Tamara Y. Craver  
President & CEO | Reality Changers

Tamara Y. Craver joined Reality Changers as President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2019. Ms. Craver has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, executive leadership, and youth development. She is a passionate advocate for first-generation college students and equitable access and exposure for life-changing opportunities for youth.

During her 12 years as Director of The Posse Foundation, Los Angeles, Ms. Craver built the office from a small staff and budget to the second largest office within the Posse Foundation. Under her leadership, the Los Angeles office dramatically increased the number of students it prepared and then mentored through its 10 partner colleges and universities to achieve a 90% graduation rate. In addition to leading a successful office, Ms. Craver more than quadrupled the annual revenue. She established enduring relationships with partner colleges across the nation. Prior to her role with Posse, Ms. Craver served as Director of Development and Communications for the Torrance South Bay YMCA and as Director, Social Markets for the American Heart Association, Western States Affiliates.

Numerous organizations have recognized Ms. Craver’s commitment to education, including the LA Business Journal and the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. In 2011, Los Angeles Magazine selected her as one of the 50 Most Inspirational Women in Los Angeles. She was a Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Fellow (2012). Ms. Craver earned her Bachelor of Arts in history and psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Aimee Faucett  
Chief of Staff | Office of Mayor Kevin Faulconer

Aimee Faucett has served the communities of San Diego over 22 years while working in the legislative and executive branches of the City of San Diego and voluntarily serves on several non-profit boards. Today, Aimee holds the position of Chief of Staff for City of San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. In this role Aimee works with Mayor Faulconer to get the expansion of the Convention Center across the finish line, tackle the homeless crisis, make housing more affordable, grow San Diego’s economy and deliver excellent city services to every community. Prior to joining the Mayor’s team, Aimee was COO of San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. She was the Deputy Chief of Staff to former Mayor Jerry Sanders and also served as Chief of Staff to former San Diego City Councilmembers Kevin L. Faulconer and Jim Madaffer where she oversaw the day-to-day operations and was responsible for community representation, policy, communications, office management and legislative relations. Her first position with the City of San Diego was a community liaison for former Councilmember Judy McCarty.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Fitzsimons
Vice President Leadership & Engagement | San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

As Vice President, Leadership & Engagement, Elizabeth is responsible for the development and implementation of the four leadership development programs offered through Chamber affiliate LEAD San Diego.

She works in partnership with the President and Board of Directors to achieve LEAD’s mission to develop, connect, and empower leaders for positive change.

Elizabeth also leads the Chamber’s strategic marketing communications efforts. She ensures that all outreach aligns with and supports the organization’s vision to make San Diego the best place to live and work.

Elizabeth and team are responsible for developing strategy and tactics to create interest, demand, and recognition for the Chamber and LEAD through media relations; web, social, and print communications; advertising; strategic relationships; direct and online marketing; and more than 60 events a year.

Previously, Elizabeth was Senior Director of Marketing & Communications at Rady Children’s Hospital. There, she oversaw a repositioning initiative; media relations; web, video and social media; internal communications; and strategic communications planning for the hospital and its foundation.

Prior to Rady Children’s, Elizabeth worked at the County of San Diego in media and public relations and internal communications. She started her career in San Diego as a journalist at The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Elizabeth is a 2013 graduate of LEAD’s Impact program. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s degree in journalism and public affairs from American University in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank; Library Commissioner on the City of San Diego’s Board of Library Commissioners; member of the Board of Governors for the University Club Atop Symphony Towers; and member of the Governance Committee of the San Diego Public Library Foundation. She lives in Del Cerro with her husband, daughter, and twin sons.

Julie Fletcher
Chief Talent Officer | AMN Healthcare

Julie Fletcher is the Chief Talent Officer for AMN Healthcare and in that role she provides leadership for attracting, developing, and optimizing team member talent for corporate roles and across the AMN diverse family of workforce solutions and staffing companies. She is also responsible for Credentialing Operations, which encompasses the critical process of validating required credentialing documents for our healthcare providers.

Ms. Fletcher joined AMN Healthcare in 2008 as the Senior Vice President, Human Resources and was promoted to the Chief Talent Officer role in 2014. AMN Healthcare is passionately committed to investing in its talent as a key differentiator and Ms. Fletcher leads all aspects of the team member lifecycle.
Prior to joining AMN, Ms. Fletcher served as the Chief Human Resources Officer for H&R Block’s Option One Mortgage Company in Irvine, CA. In that role, she championed a new talent strategy for the 5,500-person brand of a 110,000 person organization. Prior to H&R Block, Ms. Fletcher was a top HR executive for the Los Angeles Times, a division of The Tribune Company. Ms. Fletcher has also served as a key player at the Walt Disney Co./Parks and Resorts Division, leading Human Resource Services and a host of leadership roles in the people and cast functions.

She is actively involved in the human resource community beyond her role at AMN Healthcare. She is a member of the CHRO Council of the Conference Board and was named to the Board of Directors for Make-a-Wish® San Diego. Ms. Fletcher earned a Bachelor of Science degree in HR Management and Business Administration from California State Polytechnic University, and a Master of Science in HR Management Development from Chapman University.

Amanda Flisher
Leadership Coach | Amanda Flisher Coaching

As a Self-Leadership Coach, Amanda began her private practice in 2014 after years in the Leadership and Talent Development field. Her mission is to partner, guide, support, and coach curious individuals who want to learn more about who they are so they can apply it to everything they do.

When it comes to Clifton StrengthsFinder®, Amanda has trained and coached thousands of individuals on understanding their results through partnering with organizations, teams and individuals. Her favorite work though is working one-to-one with women leaders who are ready to breakthrough their own barriers and step into the potential they know they have.

Amanda holds an Associate Certified Coach credential through the International Coaching Federation, is a trained Strengths Educator through the Gallup Organization and her Master’s is in Organizational Management.

Tamika Franklin
Director of Development | Preuss School, UC San Diego

Tamika Franklin currently serves as Director of Development for The Preuss School UC San Diego. She is responsible for fundraising efforts, alumni engagement, marketing and volunteer management. Previously she served as Director of Development for Physical Sciences at UC San Diego focused on major gift strategy. She has also served as the division’s Alumni Relations Director developing a comprehensive engagement program. Tamika also played a leading role in developing UC San Diego’s Black Alumni Council and Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Council, serving as an advisor to cultivate active participation among diverse alumni. For her efforts in promoting diversity and inclusion, Tamika was a recipient of the UC San Diego Diversity Award in 2014.

Prior to joining UC San Diego, Tamika supported the Vice President’s Office for University Relations and Development at San Diego State University. She is a graduate of Lawrence University with bachelor’s degrees in government and philosophy. She is a board member of UC San Diego Staff Association, Blindspot Collective, and Vice President of Communications for the Association of Fundraising Professionals-San Diego Chapter.
Laura Georgantos  
Director, Organizational Effectiveness | SDG&E

Laura Georgantos is the Director of Organizational Effectiveness for SDG&E. Since her hiring in 2000, she has held many different positions at both SDG&E and its parent company, Sempra Energy.

In her current position, Ms. Georgantos is responsible for talent management, culture change, executive and employee development, assessment and testing, and organizational development. She has designed and implemented multiple large-scale culture-change initiatives and has implemented strategic alignment sessions to support strategy execution. Ms. Georgantos earned her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from The Ohio State University and a Master’s of Science degree in Organizational Development from Pepperdine University. She is also a 2019 graduate of LEAD’s Influence San Diego program.

Melissa Goodwin  
Co-Founder | The Idea House

Melissa Goodwin is the Founder of her own brand - a personal and life transformation company as well as the Co-Founder of The IdeaHouse - a global leadership development company. Her professional mission is to inspire and mobilize people to their highest level through experiential workshops, coaching, media and lifestyle products.

As a master coach (PCC, CPCC, MA), thought leader, and Youtube Creator, she has worked extensively with a wide range of talent including Fortune 500 leaders, entrepreneurs, and some of the world’s best personal development experts. Her range of work includes coaching and communication, mindset and manifestation, brain science of beliefs, law of attraction, and whole life transformation. She has also partnered to help launch a world renown personal development company, Lifebook, which now is featured on the global MindValley platform. Over the years, Melissa has had the privilege of working with some wonderful clients both personally and professionally including: Illumina, Dexcom, Taylormade Adidas, Pandora Radio, Avery Dennison, Sony, Flex, The Chopra Center and others.

As a motivational speaker, she consistently offers a high caliber, engaging, and unique experience with the intention of anchoring audiences to take the next step to activate their full potential. Melissa lives in San Diego with her family and white lab, Ruby. When she’s not speaking or coaching, Melissa spends time filming, playing with her daughters, working out, or enjoying coffee with her best friend and husband, Brian.

Jessica Grounds  
Co-Founder | Mine The Gap

Jessica N. Grounds is an internationally recognized thought-leader in women’s leadership. She has developed innovative approaches to advance women leaders in a wide range of industries and has published cutting-edge research on women’s leadership in business and politics. Jessica’s latest research conducted by her company Mine The Gap and FTI Consulting – Culture At Work, #MeToo At Work & The Enthusiasm Gap – reveals important insights on gender dynamics in the workplace. The research has been quoted widely in the press including by Bloomberg & Fast Company.
Jessica is the Co-Founder of Mine The Gap, a company that equips leaders, industries, and organizations with the strategy and tools needed to create and sustain inclusive work environments. Mine The Gap advises major companies, organizations, and government agencies including: Amazon, National Geographic, Facebook, the Federal Aviation Administration, PG&E, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Georgetown University. Over the past two decades she has garnered significant private sector investment from companies including: Walmart, Lockheed Martin, Deloitte, and Google.

She is the Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Running Start, an organization that trains young women to run for elected office. She led Women Under Forty Political Action Committee as president and served on the Board of Directors for fourteen years. She has advised and consulted hundreds of political candidates and organizations including Members of Congress and multiple presidential candidates and is the former senior vice president of political consulting firm Stones’ Phones.

Jessica has extensive international experience working with the U.S. Department of State and international NGO’s where she routinely lectures about the importance of advancing women’s equality globally.


Jessica holds a Master of Science in Leadership from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, a graduate certificate in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership from the Women & Politics Institute at American University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Pepperdine University. After 16 years living in working in Washington, DC, she recently relocated to her hometown San Diego, California.

Jamie Inn
Vice President, National Manager - Community Engagement | U.S. Bank Corporate Social Responsibility

Jamie Inn is the National Manager of the Community Engagement team at U.S. Bank. She joined U.S. Bank in 2000. As a member of the Corporate Social Responsibility team, Jamie leads the development and implementation of national programs and initiatives in the areas of employee volunteerism, nonprofit board service and social impact. She also leads a team of dynamic Community Engagement Managers to provide support throughout U.S. Bank’s 26 state footprint. Prior to this role, Jamie led financial education efforts for the Office of Corporate Citizenship and spent more than eight years in Retail Banking.

Jamie Inn is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a bachelor’s degree in Advertising and minor in Communications.

Jamie lives in San Diego where her community involvement volunteering with I Love a Clean San Diego, the Challenged Athlete Foundation, San Diego Running Co.,Team Hoyt, and Junior Achievement. During her free time, she enjoys teaching and practicing yoga at Resilience studio in Golden Hill, traveling, hiking, camping and exploring the great outdoors with her husband.
Darrah Johnson  
CEO | Planned Parenthood Pacific Southwest

Darrah DiGiorgio Johnson has served as president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest since 2006. She leads one of the largest Planned Parenthood affiliates with 18 health centers providing health care to more than 130,000 people in San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties. She has dedicated her career to ensuring broad public access through reproductive health care, education and advocacy. Ms. DiGiorgio Johnson is a passionate advocate for ending the silence about abortion.

Steven Jones, Ph.D.  
CEO | Jones  
Boardmember | LEAD San Diego

Steven Jones, Ph.D., is an author, national speaker, and the Chief Executive Officer of JONES, a firm that specializes in providing inclusion and organizational effectiveness consulting services that supports leaders in achieving high performance through leveraging diversity.

Nationally known as one of “America’s Top Experts on Diversity” (Diversity, Inc.), Dr. Jones holds a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, a Master’s degree in Multicultural Counseling, along with a Master’s and Ph.D. in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology. Dr. Jones is in the process of completing his second book entitled The Inclusive Workplace: Leading through New Lenses in the 21st Century.

Dr. Jones has served as a National Diversity Advisor to Honda, Hyundai, MRC Capital, and Sempra Energy. In addition, he and the JONES certified team of consultants have provided consulting and training services for organizations such as SoCal Edison, The Getty, Kodak, Qualcomm, SDG&E, Solar Turbines, and Verizon. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for LEAD San Diego.

Linda Katz  
Social/Civic Activist

Equality and justice are the core values that drive Linda Katz’s passions.

As a full-time community volunteer and social/civic activist for more than four decades, Ms. Katz is passionate about supporting the most vulnerable populations of women and girls.

Ms. Katz is the Founding President of The San Diego Women’s Foundation and Co-Founder of Women Give San Diego. Having been involved with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest for 40 years, she is committed to ensuring broad public access to sexual and reproductive health care through direct service, education, and advocacy.

Ms. Katz is actively engaged in working with organizations that advance the economic security of the most vulnerable populations of women and girls in our community, in particular, Women Give San Diego, United Women of East Africa Support Team, MANA de San Diego, and Women for Social Impact.
Ms. Katz currently serves on the Advisory Councils of MANA de San Diego, San Diego Center for Children, and Barrio Logan College Institute. Ms. Katz and her husband, Mel, are also serving as Honorary Chairs for the San Diego Center for Children Anniversary 133rd Anniversary Celebration, Cherishing the Joys of Childhood, for the second year.

Not only is Ms. Katz a 1990 graduate of LEAD San Diego, she is also a past Board Chair. She has also served as Chair for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, Serving Seniors, and Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary. Additional past Board service includes: The San Diego Foundation, Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation, United Way of San Diego County, Junior League of San Diego, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Francis Parker School, and the San Diego Symphony.

Ms. Katz has served as Chair and Co-Chair of many milestone charitable events in the San Diego community including: Barrio Logan College Institute’s Opportunity for Impact Annual Fundraiser, the 90th Anniversary Charity Ball benefitting Rady Children’s Hospital, The San Diego Foundation’s 25th Anniversary Gala, Junior League’s Encore, Girl Scouts’ 10th Anniversary Urban Campout, and the San Diego Symphony’s New Year’s Eve Gala. She also served as Honorary Chair for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) National Philanthropy Day 2013-2014.

Ms. Katz has received numerous awards including: Planned Parenthood’s ‘Margaret Sanger Award,’ LEAD San Diego’s ‘Graduate of the Year’ Award, Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary’s Distinguished Service Award, Junior League’s ‘Spirit of Volunteerism Award.’ San Diego Magazine’s ‘Community Volunteer of the Year’ Award, Serving Seniors’ ‘Advocacy Hero Award,’ Girl Scouts’ ‘Cool Woman Award,’ and the Association of Fund Raising Professional’s ‘Development Volunteer of the Year Award.’ Ms. Katz and her husband received the San Diego Rotary Club 2017 Mr. and Mrs. San Diego Award.

Ms. Katz and her husband have been married for 42 years and live in Del Mar. They have three adult children, Lindsey, Ashley and Jeffrey, and five grandchildren, Nicole, Noah, Donovan, JoJo, and Evander.

Starla Lewis
Professor Emeritus | Mesa College
Transformational Speaker & Life Coach

Starla Lewis is a woman on a mission. She is a Professor Emeritus, transformational speaker and life coach who has developed lectures and facilitated seminars in the areas of Diversity, Life Mastery and Women’s Empowerment, both nationally and internationally. She is the founder and CEO of C.E.L.L. [Celebration of Everlasting Life & Love] consulting.

Starla Lewis’ 40+ years of research and experience in African American Studies, Oral Communication and Women’s Studies, have enhanced her ability to engage diverse communities. She is the author and illustrator of Sunkisses, a multicultural/multilingual coloring book for children and adults. She is the Co-Creator and Facilitator of “Woman’s Worth: Reclaiming Our Divinity & Our Destiny”, and Co-Author of “I Am: My Own Self-Validation”.

Starla Lewis is a seven-time recipient of the Mesa College Teacher of the Year Award, a 2015 Women’s Hall of Fame honoree, and was recognized by KPBS as a local hero. She has dedicated her life to teaching people love and life skills. Through her work she affirms that all people are: “Brilliant, Powerful, Limitless, Love!”
Alessandra Lezama
Founder & CEO | TOOTRiS

Alessandra Lezama is the founder and CEO of TOOTRiS, an On-Demand Child Care Technology platform that is reinventing how parents access and pay for affordable, high-quality child care. Behind the scenes, TOOTRiS is elevating teachers, nurses and nannies to access advancement opportunities, by providing automation tools for licensing, managing and marketing their own ECE based in-home Child Development Center helping them achieve a six-figure income. Working alongside federal, state and local organizations, industry experts, early childhood center directors, and most importantly, parents, Alessandra is committed to delivering an invaluable service that matches the expectations of today’s digitally empowered families. A veteran technology executive who has enjoyed a 20+ year, high impact career taking underperforming companies and turning them into scalable, high-performance powerhouses was named 2016 Woman Who Means Business and 2018 CEO of the Year. Prior to founding TOOTRiS, Alessandra was CEO for other technology companies including AbacusNext, a lifestyle company she stepped into with 29 employees and in less than 4 years, transformed it into a disruptive global technology organization with more than 500 employees in San Diego alone, offering a suite of technology products to multiple industries, and American Internet Services (AIS), the largest data center operator in southern California, which she grew from one 15,000 sq ft facility to a combined capacity of over 150,000 sq ft. Alessandra advocates for women in business, serves on the Board and Management Council of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Doors of Change, and the California Preschool Business Advisory Council. Alessandra lives in her adopted hometown of sunny San Diego, California.

Nancy Maldonado
CEO | Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Nancy Maldonado is a community advocate with a strong commitment to improving the lives of marginalized communities. She has held leadership positions for the past fifteen years and has a proven track record of identifying growth opportunities within organizations, driving development efforts, contract and grant compliance, fiscal management, team development and leadership. She is a dynamic leader that has been recognized for her dedication to helping underserved communities. Nancy joined Chicano Federation as the Senior Program Director in 2017. Her knowledge of community based research and experience in leading the strategic development of community based programs and interventions propelled her to the position of Chief Operating Officer in 2018. Since then Nancy has worked to improve the quality of Chicano Federation’s programs and services and helped build a strong foundation for long-term growth and innovation. In January 2019, Nancy was named Chief Executive Officer of Chicano Federation.

Nancy holds a Master’s Degree in Exercise Science and a Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology. She formally owned and operated her own business where she developed and implemented corporate wellness programs. Prior to joining Chicano Federation, Nancy served as the Director of Community Health for the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. Nancy has been recognized for her leadership and contributions to the San Diego community by multiple publications and the California State Assembly.
**Instructor Biographies**

**Itica Milanes**  
**Communications Director | Office of County Supervisor Kristin Gaspar**

Itica Milanes was an evening anchor and reporter at ABC’s 10 News in San Diego for more than 7 years. Her journalism career took her to six states where she earned three Emmys and several other awards for her investigative reports. Before she was 30, Itica had worked her into a top-10 TV market. She has interviewed the famous and the infamous, Presidents and movie stars, and covered high profile stories like the murders of Amber Dubois and Chelsea King and the mysterious death of Rebecca Zahau at the Spreckels mansion in Coronado. After 23 years in TV news, Itica transitioned into a position as the Communications Director for County Supervisor Kristin Gaspar. She is also a public speaking coach, helping people polish their skills and preparing them for professional presentations and media interviews.

**Councilmember Vivian Moreno**  
**Councilmember | City of San Diego Distric 8**

Councilmember Vivian Moreno was elected to represent the City of San Diego’s Eighth City Council District in 2018. She has dedicated her career to improving the region’s most underserved communities through experience, volunteer work and public service and served as a Policy Advisor and Council Representative to Councilmember David Alvarez for eight years. The Councilmember currently serves as Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee, Vice Chair of the Committee on the Environment, a member of the Committee on Budget and Government Efficiency, Committee on Infrastructure and the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods. She also serves on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board, the Otay Valley Regional Park Policy Committee, the SANDAG Bayshore Bikeway Working Group, SANDAG Borders Committee, SANDAG Public Safety Committee, San Diego Consortium Policy Board and Chairs the Otay Mesa Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority.

Councilmember Moreno’s priorities include ensuring that the residents of District 8 receive the equitable services and resources they need for better quality of life, including the building of more housing for our working families, repairing our streets and roads, ensuring safe routes to school, advocating for more parks and libraries for our youth and promoting initiatives that bring jobs to the district.

Through her work and experience as Binational Affairs Director for then Councilmember Alvarez, she worked on vital border infrastructure issues including the widening of the Otay Mesa Truck Route to help improve the flow of cross-border commerce and relieve congestion on local roads. With tens of thousands of people daily crossing through the San Ysidro Port of Entry, the busiest port in the Western Hemisphere, addressing the traffic and infrastructure issues in South Bay has been a continuous effort.

Councilmember Moreno’s priority also includes developing the City’s last prime industrial land in Otay Mesa. As Authority Coordinator, she assisted in the creation of the Otay Mesa Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District, which mandates that tax increments for Otay Mesa infrastructure projects be spent and invested only in Otay Mesa.

With a strong passion towards the advancement of youth and women in San Diego, the Councilmember has served on the boards of community-focused organizations, including Border View Family YMCA and MANA de San Diego. She has dedicated over five years of one-on-one mentorship for MANA’s Hermanitas program which provides leadership development and peer
INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Advance support for Latinas ages 12 – 18, with a focused goal of mentees attaining higher education and career achievement. The Councilmember has also been active in engaging and encouraging young adults to participate in civic life by registering more than 3,500 new voters at her alma mater, UC San Diego.

Councilmember Moreno is a lifelong resident of San Diego and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science with a focus on International Relations from the University of California at San Diego. Prior to working in the public sector, Councilmember Moreno worked as a buyer for a metal distributor. She lives in San Ysidro and enjoys traveling, reading and spending time at the beach.

Vanessa Moore
Vice President of Operations | San Diego Food Bank

A San Diego native, Vanessa joined the Food Bank in 2003. As Vice President of Operations, Vanessa oversees all Food Bank programs, operations, and external partnerships. Vanessa is responsible for establishing innovative Food Bank programs including the Community Cares Program, the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, and the CalFresh Outreach Program. Vanessa also implemented the Food Bank’s new Nutrition Education Program and our nutrition inventory system. Both are designed to educate our food recipients about nutrition-related issues and to improve the nutritious value of the food provided by the Food Bank to our client population. Under Vanessa’s leadership, the Food Bank increased its food distribution by more than 125%. Prior to joining the Food Bank, Vanessa worked in accountancy where she discovered her passion for helping people by volunteering her time as a tax preparer for low-income families. Over the last ten years, Vanessa has participated in both leadership and management programs including the Fieldstone Emerging Leaders Program and LEAD San Diego. It was through LEAD that Vanessa was introduced to the Bayside Community Center, and she now serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors. Vanessa also serves on the National CSFP Association Board of Directors, and she volunteers as a Big Sister for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Program of San Diego.

Idara Ogunsaju
Department Administrator | Kaiser Permanente

Idara Ogunsaju is currently an administrator with Kaiser Permanente. For the past 12 years, Idara has been increasingly responsible for the successful operation and growth of medical specialty departments located from San Marcos to Otay Mesa. Prior to taking on a leadership role in Healthcare operations, Idara worked as a project manager and consultant in the implementation of the Kaiser Permanente Electronic Medical Record system, KP HealthConnect, which is an EPIC product. With over 15 years of experience in Healthcare, Idara has also worked in Research, Customer Service, labor relations and Health Information Systems. She completed a bachelor’s degree in Physiological Science at UCLA, a Business Certificate at UCSD, and a Master’s Degree in HealthCare Administration from California State University, Los Angeles. San Diego has been home to Idara and her family for over a decade now. As part of getting to know our city and the opportunities to be engaged locally, Idara joined the LEAD San Diego IMPACT program and graduated with the class of 2017. Idara is currently vice chair of the boards of LEAD San Diego and the San Diego Council on Literacy (SDCOL) and also serves on the LEAD nominating committee and SDCOL Healthcare Literacy committee. Idara is a supporter of women as leaders and is passionate about maternal and child health.
Kimberley Phillips Boehm  
**Writer**

Kimberley Phillips Boehm, is a writer who most recently had a long career as a university academic and administrator. She held an endowed chair at The College of William and Mary in the Department of History and the American Studies Program. She then moved to college administration, first as the Founding Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Brooklyn College-CUNY, and then as Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Mills College. She has authored numerous articles and three award-winning books. She now serves on university and community boards, including as the incoming President of the UC San Diego Alumni Board. She serves on other boards in San Diego, including the LEAD Board, San Diego Grantmakers and as Chair of the Board of Reality Changers. Kimberley received her B.A. in history from UC San Diego and an M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. She is a third-generation Californian and she lives in North Park with her husband Marcus F. Boehm.

Sofia Salgado Robitaille  
**Executive Director | Southwestern College Foundation**

Prior to taking up her recent position at Southwestern College Foundation Sofia Salgado Robitaille was the Executive Director for MANA de San Diego, a non-profit Latina organization, where she led their strategic planning, marketing and operations efforts while overseeing 200+ volunteers who plan and implement MANA’s programs serving more than 1,000 Latinas in San Diego County. The mission of the organization is to empower Latinas through education, leadership development, community service and advocacy. MANA has been around for 34 years and Sofia is their first Executive Director. She brought outstanding industry skills and an in-depth knowledge about MANA de San Diego that is only surpassed by her passion to help Latinas succeed. Under Sofia’s leadership, MANA de San Diego was awarded the “2018 Chapter of the Year” by MANA National headquartered in Washington, DC. Other achievements for the organization include the 2017 FBI Director’s Award for Community Leadership and the 2015 Bright Spot in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

Sofia has been instrumental in MANA’s growth in serving the Latina community. She has facilitated a big-picture approach by positioning the non-profit as the premiere organization in education, mentorship and volunteerism for Latinas of all ages. Sofia has been instrumental in tripling the budget for the organization as well as increasing the numbers served by 100% as she developed a strategic plan to strengthen programs, streamline processes, maximize human resources and expand community reach. Her vision includes strengthening community presence, collaborations, infrastructure and processes so that MANA not only acutely understands the current and emerging needs of Latinas, but is also positioned to meet those needs through creative, effective and collaborative programming.

Before joining MANA de San Diego, Sofia was the Community Affairs Manager for KSWB/Channel 5 and KGTV/ABC10 where she positioned and marketed the stations as leaders in the areas of local issues such as education and the diversity of the San Diego region. She created and implemented projects that made a measurable difference in the community as well as promoted the television stations as upstanding corporate citizens. Sofia’s biggest accomplishment was creating and overseeing the KSWB Cares for Kids charitable fund which granted more than $18 million to local children’s charities during her tenure.
Jerry Sanders
President & CEO | San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Jerry Sanders began his lifelong career in public service when he joined the San Diego Police Department at the age of 22, fulfilling his dream of becoming a police officer. He ascended the police department ranks, serving as the SWAT Team commander before becoming one of the youngest police chiefs in the city’s history.

In 1999, Sanders retired from the police force and became CEO of the United Way of San Diego, where he reduced the organization’s costs and increased fundraising by 20 percent. Three years later, he chaired the board of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. He increased financial transparency at the chapter and helped restore the nonprofit’s credibility.

In 2005, with his reputation as a successful turn-around executive, civic leaders urged Sanders to run for mayor. After winning in a special election, Mayor Sanders immediately launched a top-to-bottom review and streamlining of city operations, which eliminated more than 1,800 positions from the city budget.

Under Mayor Sanders, city financial staff completed six years’ worth of back-logged audits, allowing the city to return to the public bond markets in January 2009 — helping to fund the mayor’s commitment to repair San Diego’s long-neglected water, sewer and transportation infrastructure. Sanders also introduced Managed Competition to city government, which allows private companies to compete against city employees for the right to provide a variety of municipal services.

In addition to his broad reform agenda, Sanders has placed a high priority on economic growth and job creation during his time in office. Specifically, the mayor has been a champion of the region’s promising clean technology industry — including solar energy, biofuels and other environmentally-friendly products.

Sanders’ focus and leadership on water reliability led to widespread adoption of water-efficiency measures throughout the city. Since then San Diegans have responded by cutting their water use by 21 percent since 2007. Leading by example, he reduced his own home water consumption by 54 percent during that same period. Sanders completed his second and final term as Mayor in December 2012.

Sanders currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Katy Temple
Founder & CEO | Katy Temple Media Coaching

Katy Temple is the Founder and CEO of Katy Temple Media Coaching. Leveraging more than 20 years of sports broadcasting experience, Ms. Temple is committed to helping her clients be the best version of themselves on-camera and in person. She believes that great communication skills can empower change, launch careers, and will never go out of style.

Before focusing on executive media coaching, Ms. Temple built her reputation as an Emmy Award winning sports broadcaster, a career which spans over 20 years, numerous states, and multiple professional sports.

Ms. Temple kicked off her career with her first official on-air job doing play-by-play for Fresno
Ms. Temple was the weekend sports anchor for FOX6 in San Diego and the co-host of That Sunday Sports Show. She had the pleasure of covering the Padres, Chargers, PGA Tour, Gulls, Aztecs, Toreros, and incredible high school sports landscape in America’s Finest City.

Ms. Temple believes in giving back to the communities that have given her so much pride, joy, and opportunity. She is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s 2019 Woman of the Year, after she and her team, TEAM KEEP FIGHTING, raised $40,000 dollars in ten weeks to fund cancer research.

Tali A. Thomas, PCC
Executive Coach

Tali Thomas is known for her powerful and compassionate leadership. She is an extraordinary coach and trainer. As a co-founder of Synergy Coaching Group and proven leader of the International Coaching Federation (ICF)-accredited Accomplishment Coaching Coaches Training Program, she has 5,000 hours and countless training seminars to her credit. Ms. Thomas has coached and trained clients, one-on-one and groups as large as 125 people.

In her role as an Executive Coach, Ms. Thomas gets the opportunity to partner with her individual clients to create what they want for their life, business, team and leadership legacy. In addition, Ms. Thomas trains and leads groups of individuals to become Ontological coaches, facilitates retreats, and is a public speaker.

Ms. Thomas is credentialed as a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) through the ICF and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona. Ms. Thomas’ experience has given her the opportunity to work within multiple industries including retail, healthcare, law, engineering, technology, commercial real estate, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Before becoming a professional coach, Ms. Thomas was part of a team that founded a successful international publishing company with divisions in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. In just two short years, the company grew to a customer base of over thousands of retailers worldwide, including Wal-Mart, Ritz Camera, Hobby Lobby, Michael’s, and Target.

Ms. Thomas understands that real leadership comes from a continuous willingness to reinvent oneself and the ability to produce results.

Robin Toft
Founder & CEO | Toft Group Executive Search
Board Chair | LEAD San Diego

Robin Toft is the founder and CEO of Toft Group a ZRG Company, where she combines a deep inside knowledge of the life science industry with a passion for building game-changing management teams. Robin has placed more than 500 executives at innovation-led companies in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, life science tools and digital health. A champion of diverse executive teams, Robin has built a reputation for recruiting women and minorities into top roles and helping the life science industry overcome unconscious bias in hiring. Prior to founding Toft Group in 2010, Robin served 20+ years as a biotech
INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Advance executive. In 2019, Robin authored her first book, “WE CAN: The Executive Woman’s Guide to Career Advancement,” available on Amazon. WE CAN offers practical insight, wisdom and encouragement for women to realize the career of their dreams. Robin serves on multiple non-profit boards, was awarded Woman of the Year in San Diego in 2017, in 2018 and 2019, she was a finalist in Ernst & Young’s prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year awards. She has been honored as a finalist for San Diego Business Journal’s “Women Who Mean Business” and “Most Admired CEO” awards in multiple years.

Julie Visser
Vice President of Executive Search & Coaching | Toft Group Executive Search

Julie Visser is the Vice President of Executive Search and Executive Coaching for Toft Group, working within the life science and healthcare high tech industries. Ms. Visser has a passion for coaching and recruiting women into top roles and providing companies with a diverse slate of exceptional talent.

Ms. Visser is also the Founder and President of JA Talent Partners, a company providing career coaching for women re-entering the workplace. She personally re-entered the job market after leaving the workforce and understands the challenges transitioning back into the job market. Her focus on building confidence is vital and will be accomplished through effective training in job search strategy and preparation.

In 2019, Ms. Visser authored two workbooks, The Reviving Careers Workbook and The Launching Careers Workbook, which are step-by-step guides to re-entering and initially entering the workforce. She has developed a coaching program to ensure that those seeking advancement in their careers have a well-planned career search strategy plan and can successfully navigate today’s job market. Ms. Visser is proud of the countless job opportunities that have resulted from her career coaching and global executive placement efforts.

Ms. Visser previously enjoyed a 20-year professional career, leading and partnering with U.S. companies’ internal, worldwide human resources efforts, including Life Technologies, Thermo Fisher and, most recently, as the Director of Talent Acquisitions for NuVasive. Her expertise in strategically developing efficient, streamlined practices to deliver exceptional talent with a focus on diversity has resulted in organizational growth, while ensuring shareholder value.

Ms. Visser holds a BA in Marketing from the University of Arizona and is an AIRS certified Human Resource and Talent Acquisition Professional.

Caroline Winn
Chief Operating Officer | SDG&E
Board Chair | San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Caroline Winn is the Chief Operating Officer for San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), one of Sempra Energy’s regulated California utilities. Sempra Energy is a San Diego-based Fortune 500 energy services holding company whose subsidiaries provide electricity, natural gas and value-added products and services.

SDG&E is a regulated public utility that provides service to 3.6 million consumers through 1.4 million electric meters and more than 873,000 natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties.
Ms. Winn became COO of SDG&E in January 2017. Previously, Ms. Winn served as Chief Energy Delivery Officer, overseeing all energy delivery activities for SDG&E, including electric distribution operations and gas services, customer services, and external and state legislative affairs.

Prior to that, Ms. Winn was Vice President of Customer Services and Chief Customer Privacy Officer, overseeing all customer-related activities for SDG&E, including call centers, smart pricing program, energy efficiency, demand response and customer assistance programs, customer privacy, revenue cycle activities, electric rates and analysis, field services, corporate brand, marketing, and customer communications.

Since joining the company in 1986 as an associate engineer, Ms. Winn has held a number of leadership positions with SDG&E and Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas). Previously, she was Director of Supply Chain Management for both SDG&E and SoCalGas following her role as Director of Transmission and Distribution Asset Management responsible for distribution planning, electric reliability, compliance management and information technology management.

Ms. Winn has a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from California State University Sacramento and is a registered professional engineer in the state of California. She is also a 2002 LEAD San Diego graduate.

Ms. Winn serves on the Management Council and Board of Directors of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Western Energy Institute and the Board of Advisors for the UC Davis Energy Efficiency Center.