



DR. STAR RIVERA-LACEY BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey continues her 25 years of progressive administrative and leadership community college experience as the new Superintendent/President of Palomar Community College District. Until her first official day as Superintendent/President, her extensive higher education experience was well grounded in leading Student Services and Instructional programming. Previously held positions include serving as the first Vice President of Student Services at the San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE), and as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services at Palomar College. She also served as the Dean of Counseling and Student Services at SDCCE, held leadership roles in various student support services, and was tenured Counseling Faculty at San Diego Mesa College. Dr. Rivera-Lacey currently serves as adjunct faculty in the university system.

Professional accomplishments also include being named a fellow of the 2023 Wheelhouse Institute on Leadership, an Aspen Institute Rising Presidents Fellow (2020-2021) and a National Community College Hispanic Council Fellow (2018).

Her leadership skills and qualifications include developing and implementing specialized programs for traditional, and nontraditional, student populations in both credit and noncredit educational settings. Dr. Rivera-Lacey has led integrated planning, student success and equity initiatives throughout her career. Her commitment to social justice drives her passion for educational reform, and her research interests center on student access to educational opportunities, student retention, and completion of educational goals for all students with a special emphasis on serving underserved populations.

She was born and raised in Oceanside, California and is proud to have started her post-secondary education at a community college. In addition, to a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from California State University, San Marcos, and a master's degree in Education, with an emphasis in multicultural counseling, from San Diego State University, Dr. Rivera-Lacey earned her Ph.D. in Education from the San Diego State/Claremont Graduate University joint doctoral program.

Dr. Rivera-Lacey enjoys photography, running, and is a first-degree black belt in Shorin Ryu karate.