

SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES COMMUNITY COLLEGES REGIONAL CONSORTIUM - EMPLOYER RELATIONS LIAISONS BIOS

Under the direction of the [Director of Strategic Partnerships](#), the Employer Relations Liaisons (ERL) will support one of the community colleges in the San Diego and Imperial Counties Regional Consortium to achieve the Strong Workforce employer engagement metrics by engaging industry and community partners.

The key metrics for success are: 1) increase work-based learning opportunities for students, 2) increase student jobs and employment outcomes, and 3) develop approaches that are more responsive to employer's immediate training needs, particularly with emerging technologies.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison Lead: Monica Rosas, monica.rosas@gcccd.edu

Monica Rosas has worked for the San Diego & Imperial Counties Community Colleges Regional Consortium since 2018. Some of her responsibilities include coordination of middle and high school engagement work-based learning events, professional development for K-14 educators in a variety of topics and other career pathways specific workgroup activities.

Prior to entering the education sector, Monica worked for the U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) at the American Consulate General in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. At USCS she helped U.S. companies' export or increase sales to new markets and build and foster relationships with Mexican Government Officials (e.g., Mexican Customs), industry and business organizations and other entities like Economic Development Councils. Monica is bilingual in English/Spanish and enjoys traveling with family and friends.



GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Jenni Preciado, jennifer.preciado@gcccd.edu

Jenni Preciado has worked in San Diego's work-based learning space since 2017. In her current role as the Employer Relations Liaison supporting Grossmont College, Jenni does her best to strengthen the community as a whole by providing students with growth opportunities and local industry with the skilled workforce they need to grow and prosper. Prior to taking on this role in 2022, she collaborated with local employers and educators to create and coordinate 6-12th grade work-based learning, financial literacy, and other career and work-readiness programs. Her career journey highlights her interest in career exploration as she has worked and excelled in various industries including IT, natural resources, and non-profit education.

Throughout her career, Jenni has made collaboration and positive relationships a priority, as well as sought to do work that makes people's lives better. Jenni loves to see students explore career options, gain new perspectives, and find passion in a career they may not have known existed. She believes work-based learning and career training can truly bridge gaps, build confidence, and give people a path to job and economic stability in San Diego's economy. To keep her life balanced, Jenni gardens, walks, and spends time with family and friends.



HEALTH INITIATIVES

Employer Relations Liaison: Rachel Sanchez, rachel_sanchez@gcccd.edu

Rachel Sanchez has worked with various post-secondary vocational colleges since 2011. Some of her responsibilities include developing and maintaining relationships with employers, establishing externship and clinical opportunities, marketing, mentoring, training in career preparation, recruitment, and staffing.

Prior to entering the education sector, Rachel worked in healthcare as a nurse staffing coordinator, medical billing specialist, and medical office administrator. Rachel received her undergraduate degree in Health Administration and has a Masters graduate degree in Organizational Leadership and Public Health. Rachel is bilingual in English/Spanish and enjoys spending time with family and her beloved pets (dog-Bridgette, cats-Coco Chanel, Ollie Bear, and Claire -AKA Fatso, and the wild hummingbirds who live in the backyard dubbed Gunner, Otis, & Winston-or-Willamina).



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Miguel Gutierrez, miguel.gutierrez@gcccd.edu

Miguel Gutierrez is a dedicated Career Technical Education advocate with an entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for serving his community. In his previous service as a Program Manager for the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program, he concurrently led three programs, which included the Strong Workforce Program, the WIOA funded Project ESP-eranza, and the STEM Mobile Career Exploration Lab. While managing these projects Miguel was tasked with collaborating with industry professionals, school administrators, educators, and students of all ages to identify and create work-based learning opportunities. The relationships he and his team built within these communities led to the creation of multiple mentoring programs, workplace tours, in class presentations by industry leaders, internship positions, and ultimately employments opportunities for CTE program completers from various industry pathways.

After separating from the military (*US Air Force*), he turned his focus to earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in business management and administration. During this time, he simultaneously began his professional career as a small business entrepreneur transitioning from the residential mortgage industry to the insurance, and then marketing industries as he established and capitalized on new business partnerships. Miguel is driven by his belief and hope that as a community we can come together to create a sustainable tide that lifts all boats.



PALOMAR COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Angela Tilley-Ruiz, angela.tilley@gcccd.edu

Angela Tilley-Ruiz is dedicated to the pursuit of equitable access and outcomes in education. She has over 16 years of experience working in colleges including 7 years with multiple San Diego Community Colleges. Angela served as Assistant Director of Career Services & Internships at MSMU on the South Los Angeles campus specifically for first and second year college students. She developed innovative programming and taught classes aimed to prepare students for completing their degrees and entering into the workforce. In her previous position as Job Placement Case Manager at Cuyamaca College, she coached students on increasing employability skills and created career-readiness programming. Additionally, Angela fostered strong collaborative relationships with industry to increase work-based learning opportunities for students.

As a first-generation college graduate, Angela took community college classes while she pursued her Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from CSU Dominguez Hills. She went on to earn her Master’s Degree from Claremont Graduate University in Applied Gender Studies with a concentration in Higher Education.

Her internship with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender and Media was instrumental in shaping her understanding the importance of gaining workforce knowledge through experiential learning. This laid the groundwork for her future endeavors including teaching Gender Studies. In addition to teaching, Angela enjoys art, music, and weekend adventures in SD and LA with family.



MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Lynn Bigsby, lynn.bigsby@gcccd.edu

Lynn Bigsby is a CTE and Workforce Development professional with over 19 years of experience in Career Education. For the past two years, Lynn has worked with special population high school and first year college students providing post-secondary guidance and workforce preparation. In this role, Lynn has collaborated with local businesses and industry partners providing work-based learning opportunities for the students she served.

Prior to this role, Lynn spent 17 years leading CTE and CTE preparation courses at the middle and high school level. Lynn’s experience includes creating a-g, articulated and sequential pathways with liaison supported internships. Cultivating relationships with industry partners, Lynn’s pathways were labor market informed and included Work-Based Learning activities and events. During this time, Lynn also served as a CTE District Department Coordinator and Department Chair. In her spare time, Lynn enjoys taking her daughter on adventures and spending time with family and friends.



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Karen Overklift, karen.overklift@gcccd.edu

Karen joins the community colleges support team with a wealth of skills and experience within San Diego’s non-profit arena. Most recently with the Biocom California Institute, she has held positions in community outreach, HR management and education program management for local non-profit organizations for over 15 years. Her expertise is finding industry connections and developing partnerships to increase social mobility for underserved students.

A native San Diegan, who grew up in Pacific Beach and earned a B.A. in Communications from UCSD. Karen brings experiences in the workforce development field both in an industry and educational capacities. Through her vast professional connections in San Diego County, she serves as a liaison between community college students, high-growth, high-wage industry employers, and the community.

Karen has a love for educational programs and is passionate about employer relations and connecting students to internships. She has placed over 1000 students in paid internships. In her spare time, she leverages her volunteer interests and her job connections to develop a community of young women engaged in STEM learning. She also enjoys riding her quad in the desert and spending time with her daughter.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Erica Olmos, erica.olmos@gcccd.edu

Erica Olmos has worked at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges since 2016. Some of her responsibilities include coordination of hiring events, information sessions, 21st Century Employability Skills Workshops, CTE employer engagement events, and chairing the internship program at Grossmont College.

Prior to entering the community colleges, Erica worked for various for-profit universities in San Diego County. She was responsible for preparing students and alumni for careers in their field of study, and for establishing powerful employer partnerships, which resulted in over 80% of graduates landing full time jobs every semester. Erica is bilingual in English/Spanish and enjoys being a sports mom.



SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Lance Grob, lance.grob@gcccd.edu

Lance Grob was the Director of Business Development, Workforce Development and Training, for Edmonds College, a WA State Community and Technical College. Some of his responsibilities include the creation and execution of pre-apprenticeship programs for construction, maritime and manufacturing, DVR contract management to help students with disabilities gain meaningful employment, and relationship management with external clients.

Prior to entering the education sector, Lance worked for Chicago Title of WA as Business Development Leader, Multicultural Markets. At Chicago Title of WA, he helped local and regional Escrow and Sales teams recruit and retain bilingual/bicultural staff, design and teach cross-cultural CE classes for professionals, and create strategic partnerships with ethnic/minority trade associations, chambers of commerce and community non-profits. Lance is dedicated to ocean sustainability, is bilingual in English/Spanish, and has returned to his home town of San Diego to be closer to family.



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Employer Relations Liaison: Vanessa Barron, vanessa.barron@gcccd.edu

Vanessa Barron has over 10 years of experience in business development, sales, and community relations. Her previous position with Grossmont College allowed her to engage with employers to develop work-based learning activities, coordinate events for Career Technical Education students, and identify jobs/internships for students.

Prior to working in higher education, she worked for private organizations, including the Fortune 500 company Simon Property Group as the Director of Marketing and Business Development where she fostered relations with local and international companies to create new programs and increase awareness. In addition, Vanessa worked at non-profit organizations, such as the San Diego Blood Bank serving as the Marketing and Outreach Project Manager, and Chula Vista's Third Avenue Association where she partnered with many local organizations to help the area thrive.

During her tenure at the South County Economic Development Council, she assisted with the creation of opportunities that expanded and improved the south region's business relations. Vanessa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from San Diego State University, and a Master's Degree with an emphasis in Marketing from National University.

