

# 2024

## CEO SYMPOSIUM RETIREE RECOGNITION DINNER

MARCH 16, 2024 | THE US GRANT, SAN DIEGO



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE  
OF CALIFORNIA

# 2024 CEO RETIREE HONOREES

*The Chief Executive Officers of California Community Colleges are proud to recognize and honor the following CEO retirees of 2024.*

**Kristin Clark, Ed.D.**

*Chancellor, West Hills Community College District*

**Celia Esposito-Noy, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent/President, Solano Community College*

**Kim Hoffmans, R.N., Ed.D.**

*President, Ventura College*

**Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.**

*Chancellor, Peralta Community College District*

**Susan Sperling, Ph.D.**

*President Emerita, Chabot College*

**Joe Wyse, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent/President, Shasta-Tehama-Trinity  
Joint Community College District*



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## Kristin Clark, Ed.D.

*Chancellor, West Hills Community College District*  
Retiring July 2024

**Proudest Accomplishments:** I'm proud that a small, rural community college district covering almost 3,500 square miles in the center of the state managed to become a state leader in Open Educational Resources with 70% of the courses being offered with free, culturally relevant textbooks that saved students over \$9 million in the last several years. I'm also proud of the recognition our colleges have received on a national level. They have been named Aspen Top 100 community colleges several years in a row and one received the Leader College and Leader College of Distinction recognition from Achieving the Dream.

### Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:

- Be authentically you. People will appreciate that more than you know.
- Cherish and care for your team because you won't be successful without them.
- Make students your north star, and at the end of the day, you'll never get lost.
- Don't let other people define your success. Success shouldn't be measured in personal, quantified achievements but rather in the relationships you form and the accomplishments of others around you.

## Celia Esposito-Noy, Ed.D.

*Superintendent/President, Solano Community College*  
Retiring June 2024

**Proudest Accomplishments:** I am grateful for the team we built that leads with compassion and kindness. We expanded our Rising Scholars classes and services, providing instruction to more than 1,000 students and supporting them when they return to their communities. Of all the work we do, changing the lives of students who are incarcerated and the lives of their families is by far, the most impactful.

**Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:** Leading with humility and gratitude yields the best outcomes.



## Kim Hoffmans, R.N., Ed.D.

*President, Ventura College*  
Retiring June 2024

### Proudest Accomplishments:

- Over 30 years of service in the community colleges as a nursing faculty, dean, vice president of academic affairs, and president.
- Garnering \$63,000 for student housing which I believe will be a game changer for our students.
- Developing a robust Basic Needs program which is recognized by Bellwether College Consortium as a top 10 finalist.
- Starting the following CTE programs on campus: diesel mechanic and veterinary technician.

### Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:

- Don't take anything personally
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Enjoy the ride with all its fun twists and turns. It is never dull.



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**Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D.**  
*Chancellor, Peralta Community College District*  
Retired December 2023

**Proudest Accomplishments:** I am most proud of the contributions I have made on behalf of the students and the communities where I have served over the span of almost forty years. I get the greatest pleasure from seeing the proverbial “lightbulb go on”; when you know that whatever lesson was being taught the person “got it,” whether in the classroom, boardroom, or hallway, learning happens in all venues, and being part of that process is extremely rewarding.

**Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:**

- Be true to yourself, be open and authentic.
- Always seek collaboration, extend the olive branch



**Susan Sperling, Ph.D.**  
*President Emerita, Chabot College*  
Retired August 2023

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Sustaining and developing diverse innovative programs at Chabot that best serve our students and communities. This sometimes required overcoming initial bureaucratic inertia or political opposition, but I concluded early on that avoiding controversy was ethically untenable for me.

**Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:**

All of your work as a leader is important, whether forwarding DEI, workforce development, student completion and transfer rates, or expanding financial resources. But your commitment to protecting the “sacred space” of the community college classroom must always be a preeminent goal. For it is within our classrooms that critical thinking and the ability to distinguish fact from fiction are nurtured as bedrocks of democracy. At a time of great challenges to the democratic vision, from both within and without the California Community College system, nothing could be more crucial to your work.

## Joe Wyse, Ed.D.

*Superintendent/President, Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District*  
Retired December 2023



**Proudest Accomplishments:** There are many things I am proud of from my years of service at Shasta College, including serving our community through a major fire, passing a facilities bond to improve our facilities and infrastructure for the long-term, starting new programs and services, seeing a rise in student success metrics and more. However, upon reflection, I am most proud of the team I put together that made these things happen. It takes time and effort to assemble a great team, and I have been fortunate to have had two such leadership teams.

**Advice to New and Continuing CEOs:** I have been honored to get to know many of my colleagues and have learned much through these relationships. I would advise you to develop a circle of CEO friends whom you can call upon during the difficult times and to celebrate the good things. This helps counter the fact that this is a lonely job and no one on our campuses understands what it is to be the CEO. When making decisions, make what is good for students your guiding light. This will help you through the difficult calls we face. Finally, try to remind yourself that it is not about you. It is about the work - improving things at our institutions so we serve our students and our communities better.

