

LATINA EMPOWERMENT DAY 2020



Latina Empowerment Day – Bakersfield & Fresno
Thursday, September 24, 2020 – 9:00 am – 11:00 am

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Councilmember Esmeralda Soria

Esmeralda Soria serves as a Councilmember for District 1 in Fresno, California, and is the only woman currently serving on city council. She was born and raised by Mexican immigrant farmworkers in California's rural Central Valley. Soria received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and earned her JD from UC Davis School of Law, focusing on immigration law. She has championed water quality and affordability issues along with other environmental justice issues impacting disadvantaged communities. She continues to work tirelessly to address public safety issues, unemployment, workforce development, youth engagement, and access to education. Soria is also an educator at Fresno City College, teaching Judicial Reasoning and Latino Politics. She is an alumna of the HOPE Leadership Institute.

Nancy Wamai, Sr. Investment Strategist, Wells Fargo

Nancy Wamai is senior investment strategist for the Los Angeles region of Wells Fargo Private Bank. As part of investment management, Nancy works with clients to create asset allocation strategies, develop and implement comprehensive, custom and diversified portfolios to help them achieve their financial life goals while managing risk. Nancy earned a MBA degree in Finance from California State University Los Angeles and a Bachelor's degree in Real Estate Economics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She holds the Chartered Financial Analyst and the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst designations. She is actively involved with Medical Missions Kenya and Hunger Relief.

Adriana M. Mendoza, Associate State Director, for AARP California

Adriana Mendoza currently serves as Associate State Director for AARP California. In this role, Adriana works to position AARP as a trusted resource and leader in local communities, as well as with elected officials, business leaders, and non-profit organizations. Adriana holds B.A. degrees in Spanish and in Public Policy & Administration from California State University, Bakersfield, as well as a Master's degree from UCLA in Social Welfare and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Claremont Graduate University. Adriana is currently pursuing a PhD in Political Science at Claremont Graduate University.

Treasurer Fiona Ma

Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018 with more votes than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Her office processes more than \$2 trillion in payments within a typical year. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio of more than \$102 billion, approximately \$20 billion of which are local government funds. She serves as agent for sale for all State bonds, and is trustee on over \$100 billion of outstanding debt.

Joi Eubanks

Joi Eubanks manages Small Business Majority's outreach efforts in the Central California region. Joi develops relationships with business partners, small business owners, and community leaders to promote economic change and vitality. Joi has served as a small business expert in the Central Valley for 15 years, working with small business owners. Joi is also strongly involved with the African American business community in the Central Valley. She served as treasurer for the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce and founded the Women of Color Network, a group comprised only of minority, women-owned businesses. Her extensive background in small business technical assistance allows her to comprehend the small business community's complex needs.

Edgar Aguilar

Edgar Aguilar is the Managing Director of Alma Consulting Services and Promotoras con Alma. His passion for highlighting and recognizing the contribution of immigrants in this country has led him to develop projects and programs where the contributions of all citizens are recognized and valued. Edgar supports United Way of Kern County in their outreach efforts for CalSavers and leads the Promotoras con Alma group to empower community leaders to become engaged on issues that impact their community.

Gabriela Gonzales

Gonzales is the External Affairs Advisor for California Resources Corporation. She has established key partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to move CRC's priorities forward. Gonzales attended Bakersfield College and California State University of Bakersfield. She is the President of Latina Leaders of Kern County, a local non-profit that helps Latinas in Kern County become leaders among their schools, families & communities. Gabriela is also a HOPE Leadership Institute Alum, Class of 2016. Since 2010, Gabriela has been highly active in campaigning and fully understands the local, state, and national political processes.

Nora Dominguez- Navarrete

Nora Dominguez has served University of Laverne for the past nineteen years as Regional Marketing Director, Admission & Corporate Education Specialist, Associate Director of Recruitment, and currently as Regional Campus Director for the Kern County Campus in Bakersfield. Dominguez graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and earned her MBA with a concentration in Leadership & Management. She also earned her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership at University of La Verne. She is a graduate of Leadership Bakersfield and The HOPE Leadership Institute. Civic & community engagement as well as philanthropy are important to Dominguez. She and her husband own two small businesses and support several non-profits. She currently serves as a member on several Boards and as President of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship of Kern County.

Maria Herrera

Maria is currently the Central Valley Deputy Regional Director of External Affairs for the Office of Governor Newsom. She serves as the regional liaison to local stakeholders, business, community, and elected officials in this role. Herrera previously worked as a Community Development Manager at Self Help Enterprises, a nationally recognized community development organization dedicated to working with low-income families to sustain and build healthy homes. Before working at SHE, she served as the Community Advocacy Director for the Community Water Center. With a storied career of over 12 years, Maria has tackled water contamination and shortages through community organizing, advocacy, legislation, and technical assistance. Maria served on the CA Water Commission from 2015 – 2019