

## Assembly Higher Education Committee

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### **May 11, 2022: Oversight Hearing Speaker Biographies**

#### ***1) Panel 1 – Current Ethnic Studies Teacher Workforce.***

- a) Dr. Mike Torres – California Department of Education, Director of the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division – Dr. Mike Torres is the Director of the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division at the California Department of Education (CDE) where he provides leadership to the Curriculum Frameworks, Instructional Resources, the Clearinghouse for the Specialized Media and Technology, and the Instructional Quality Commission in ensuring that instructional materials submitted for State Board of Education approval are consistent with SBE adopted curriculum standards and policies. During his time at the CDE, he has been responsible for student accessibility on the California assessment system, special education monitoring, and has served as a governor appointee to the State Rehabilitation Council. He earned his Doctorate of Education in educational leadership with an emphasis in educational technology in 2019.
  
- b) Erin Skubal – California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Director of the Certification Division - Erin Skubal is Director of Certification for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), she oversees 42 staff that work within the licensing branch of the Commission and are responsible for the evaluation and processing of over 250,000 applications for credentials, permits, certificates and waivers each year as well as serving as the agency’s primary customer service point of contact by responding to more than 2,000 emails and 500 live chat inquiries a week. In addition, Erin leads work in statewide educational policy, Commission regulations, statewide Educator Assignment Monitoring, and website development for CTC.
  
- c) David DeGuire – California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Director of the Professional Services Division - David DeGuire is the director of the Professional Services Division of California’s Commission on Teacher Credentialing, which develops standards for all credential areas and programs, oversees educator preparation assessments, and reviews and accredits more than 250 colleges, universities and local education

agencies that offer educator preparation programs. David has over 30 years of experience in public education, including experience as director of the Teacher Education, Professional Development, and Licensing Team at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, middle school principal, director of instruction and technology, and 4th grade teacher.

**2) Panel 2 – Programs currently available to help prepare the K-12 workforce.**

- a) Dr. Ernest Black – California State University, Systemwide Director for CalState TEACH – Dr. Ernest has taught at both the elementary and middle school levels in South Central Los Angeles. At the university level, he has taught masters and doctorate level courses. His latest research concentrates on the academic achievement of African American male students.
  
- b) Claudia Martinez – University of California, Executive Director of Educator Programs at the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) – Ms. Martinez has her Master’s in Public Policy from UC Berkeley and received an undergraduate degree in Law and Social Policy from UC Berkeley. Prior to joining the UCOP, where she has served for nine years, she was the Director of the Office of Education Partnerships at the University of Santa Barbara for five years.
  
- c) Dr. Jerell Hill – Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, Dean of the School of Educational Pacific Oaks College – Dr. Jerell Hill is the Dean and Assessment Coordinator in the School of Education at Pacific Oaks College, serving as a faculty advisor for Multiple Subject Credential candidates. His responsibilities include program development, supporting adjunct faculty, accreditation, budgeting, and program oversight. Dr. Hill's areas of research interest include Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs), student motivation, educational administration, special education, and urban schools. Dr. Hill's professional memberships include the American Educational Research Association (AERA), California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (Co-Chair of the Diversity and Cultural Competence

Committee), and The Council of Exceptional Children. Dr. Hill has been a keynote speaker and presenter at the International Congress of Educators in Lima, Peru.

**3) Panel 2 – Programs currently available to help prepare the K-12 workforce.**

- a) Louie F. Rodríguez – UC Riverside, Interim Dean and Professor at the Graduate School of Education - Dr. Louie F. Rodríguez is the Interim Dean and a Professor in the Graduate School of Education at UC Riverside. He earned his doctorate in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2005. Over the last 13 years he has led several research initiatives including The PRAXIS Project, a school/community-based initiative aimed at understanding student engagement and disengagement from the student perspective. From this work he developed a 10-Point Plan and published his second book, *The Time is Now: Understanding and Responding to the Black and Latina/o Dropout Crisis in the U.S.* Over the last several years he has also spent time collaborating with schools and districts to implement many of the lessons learned from this research.
  
- b) Dr. Margarita Berta-Ávila – California State University, Professor of Education at Sacramento State University – Margarita Berta-Ávila is a union organizer with the California Faculty Association (CFA), and currently holds the following positions: Capital Chapter President, CFA Vice President of Chapter Presidents - North, and Bargaining Team Member. In addition, Dr. Berta-Ávila is a Professor of Education at Sacramento State University. She received her doctorate in International and Multicultural Education in the School of Education at the University of San Francisco. She majored in Chicana/o/x Studies from the University of California, Davis and pursued a M.A. in Education and a teaching credential from Claremont Graduate University. Dr. Berta-Ávila pursues scholarly work in the areas of participatory action research, critical pedagogy, critical race theory, anti-racism/social justice education, and Chicana/o/x educators in the field. Dr. Berta-Ávila is active in testifying at the state's capitol, organizing on campus and in the community with respect to access, equity, and justice in education for Ethnic Studies,

bilingual education, BIPOC students, undocumented students, and/or other marginalized communities.

- c) Dr. Theresa Montaña – California State University, Professor in Chicana/Chicano Studies Program at CSU Northridge and a member leader of the CSU Ethnic Studies Council – Professor Montaña began her teaching career as a middle school para-educator in Northeast Los Angeles. She became a middle and high school social studies classroom teacher and taught for 15 years in Los Angeles, CA and Denver, Co. In 2000, Dr. Montaña became the faculty advisor for the UCLA Teacher Education Program and in 2003, Dr. Montaña accepted a position at Cal State Northridge in Chicana/o Studies, area of emphasis: Education. As a union activist, she continues her involvement in CFA (California Faculty Association), where she leads the public education work. At CSUN, Dr. Montaña teaches courses on Equity and Diversity In Schools, The Chicana/o Child, and is an advisor to students enrolled in the master’s program. Dr. Montaña has articles, texts and book on issues like teacher activism, educational injustice and educating the Latino/a and Chicano/a student.

