

Assembly Higher Education Committee
Preparing K-12 Teachers for Ethnic Studies Requirement – Part 2
Oversight Hearing – October 26, 2022

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Panel 1 – Update from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

- Mary Vixie Sandy, Ed.D. - Mary Vixie Sandy serves as the Executive Director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the nation's oldest independent standards board for educators. As a policy leader with more than 25 years' experience working in higher education and government, she currently oversees public policy related to educator preparation and licensing and directs an agency that awards over 250,000 credential documents per year and accredits more than 250 colleges, universities and local education agencies offering educator preparation programs. Previously, Dr. Vixie Sandy served as the Executive Director of the UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center, as an Associate Director of Teacher Education and Public School Programs with the California State University Chancellor's Office, and as a policy analyst for the California Department of Education and the California Postsecondary Education Commission. Dr. Vixie Sandy holds a Doctorate in Education from UC Berkeley, a Master's Degree in Education from UC Davis, and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Sonoma State University. Her professional focus is on building the capacity of teachers, leaders, public schools and communities to meet the needs of California's diverse student body.

Panel 2 – Perspective from Existing K-12 Ethnic Studies Professionals.

- Annie Chou – Legislative Advocate for the California Teachers Association. Annie Chou (she/they) is the Legislative Advocate for the California Teachers Association, managing curriculum, special education, local government, and election policy. Previously, she was a Chief of Staff in both the California State Assembly and Senate. A scientist by education, Annie graduated from Denison University with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and minors in Geology and Music. She honed her craft in organizing within the progressive labor movement of San Francisco and has ran many successful campaigns in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and in Riverside and Orange Counties. Annie loves bikes, baking, and her black cat (Kitkat) and boisterous husky (Goose).

- Dr. Gustavo Flores – K-12 Teacher, Norte Vista High School. Dr. Flores has 20 years of experience as an educator in Alvord Unified School District in the Inland Empire.

Panel 3 – Landscape of Ethnic Studies Courses and Ethnic Studies Professional Development.

- Dr. Tuyen Tran – Assistant Director of the California History – Social Science Project. Tuyen Tran is the Assistant Director of the California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP). She earned her Ph.D. in History from the University of California (UC), Berkeley in 2007. As part of the statewide office of the CHSSP, headquartered at UC Davis, Tran oversees and coordinates the work of five UC regional sites at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz. In addition, she manages grant programs, such as the Library of Congress's Teaching with Primary Sources Program and Teaching California, in partnership with the California Historical Society. Tran has the privilege of working with colleagues, teachers, and scholars in advancing history education guided by California's History-Social Science Framework, including K-12 classroom instruction that is reflective of the latest scholarship in the field and is culturally relevant to the experiences and histories of California's diverse student population.
- Dr. Olympia Kyriakidis – Executive Director of Multilingual Education, Equity, and Global Achievement at San Diego County Office of Education. Dr. Kyriakidis leads a county team focused on supporting San Diego County's districts in exploring opportunities and improved outcomes for all students. Before joining SDCOE, Dr. Kyriakidis worked for the Lakeside Union School District for 16 years. In Lakeside, she serviced as an elementary and middle school teacher, vice principal, and principal. Dr. Kyriakidis was the founding principal of Riverview International Academy, where she developed a successful trilingual (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese) program, and was recognized as the 2014 ACSA California Elementary Administrator of the Year for her innovative leadership. Preparing all students to thrive in a global, 21st century workforce has been the focus of her work, as well as her studies in Educational Leadership at San Diego State University, where she received her doctorate in 2013

- 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.
- Monique McWayne – Director of the Educator Excellence and Equity Division. Monique McWayne serves as the Director of the Educator Excellence and Equity Division at the California Department of Education, which is responsible for providing leadership of policy, program development, and disbursement of statewide funding for professional learning of teachers, principals, and other school leaders. During her 11-year tenure with the CDE, Monique has led professional learning initiatives to support content standards implementation as well as state and federal grant initiatives to support student academic achievement and educational innovation. Monique also serves as the California state educational agency director of the federally-funded Title II, Part A program. Prior to joining the CDE, Monique served 10 years as an educator in California local educational agencies.

Panel 4 – Innovative Programs Offering Professional Development for Ethnic Studies Teachers – Part 1.

- Dr. Chinaka S. DomNwachukwu – Dean of the James R. Watson & Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education at California State University, San Bernardino. As the college Dean, Professor DomNwachukwu is responsible for the academic and administrative leadership of the college's three departments: Teacher Education & Foundations, Special Education, Rehabilitation & Counseling, and Educational Leadership & Technology. Programs in the college include six teaching credentials, 11 master's degree programs, and a doctoral program in educational leadership. Several undergraduate and certificate programs are also offered. The college is fully

accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). It houses one of the largest teacher credentialing programs in the California State University system. The Dean is responsible for representing the college within the university and to its external constituencies. Among the Dean's primary initiatives at CSUSB is a minority teacher pipeline program that focuses on recruiting, training, and deploying African American and Hispanic males into the K-12 classrooms. This initiative has expanded to include the participation of the Riverside County Office of Education, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the Growing Inland Achievement (GIA), a nonprofit organization, the BLU Education Foundation, another non-profit organization and several local school districts, among which are Rialto Unified School District, and Fontana Unified School District. Dean DomNwachukwu is also leading the establishment of a Model STEM Exploratorium on the CSUSB campus. This will be the first of its kind by any CSU college of education.

- Dr. Michael Domínguez – Certificate Advisor for the K-12 Ethnic Studies Teaching Certificate and Assistant Professor in Chicano and Chicana Studies. Prior to receiving his Ph.D in Education with a graduate certificate in Ethnic Studies from the University of Colorado, Dr. Dominguez was a middle school English and ESL teacher. At San Diego State University, Dr. Dominguez is passionate about supporting emerging researches of color and is presently an instructor for the General Studies program, teaching a course that involves undergraduate students in service-learning and ethnographic field research, while providing them with mentorship as they learn to connect research activities to civic and community outcomes.
- Dr. Louie F. Rodríguez – Louie F. Rodríguez is currently a Professor and holds the Bank of America Endowed Chair in Education Leadership, Policy, and Practice in the School of Education at the University of California Riverside. He is also the Founding Director of the Center for Educational Transformation at UCR. He currently leads several initiatives and his research examines issues in Latina/o/x education, Participatory Action Research, and educational equity. He recently led an initiative focused on understanding Latinx students' sources of excellence at home, school, and the community. He earned an A.A. from San Bernardino Valley College, a B.A. from CSU, San Bernardino, and two master's degrees and a doctorate from Harvard. He is the author of nearly 50 publications including 4 books, several articles and book chapters, and has received numerous honors including the American Education Research

Association (AERA) Hispanic Research Issues SIG Award for Research in Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education in 2019, recognition by the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance in 2019, Outstanding Latino Faculty by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) in 2015, and was designated as an “Emerging Leader” in 2014 by Phi Delta Kappa International in Washington, DC in 2014.

Panel 5 – Innovative Programs Offering Professional Development for Ethnic Studies Teachers – Part 2.

- Darlene Lee – University of California, Los Angeles. Darlene Lee, M.Ed., received her M.Ed. from the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences. She is a Faculty Advisor in the UCLA Teacher Education Program and was formerly a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She holds teaching credentials in Social Studies and English/Language Arts. She serves as a faculty advisor in the Teacher Education Program and leads the ethnic studies pathway. She has published and presented on various topics including innovations in ethnic studies teacher education, ethnic studies pedagogy, and ethnic studies teacher development. She is the lead curriculum developer for the Yuri Kochiyama Project for the Digital Textbook Series in the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.
- Dr. James Fabionar – University of San Diego, Assistant Professor School of Leadership and Education Sciences – As an Assistant Professor at the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at University of San Diego, Dr. Fabionar teaches graduate course on diversity and inclusion in schools, equity and advocacy in education systems, history of curriculum theory, secondary social science methods, and critical social theory and education. Prior to working at USD, Dr. Fabionar taught courses in ethnic studies, Asian American studies, and social science education at Sac State. In addition to his current role at University of San Diego, Dr. Fabionar serves as a research affiliate with the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

